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EDO KARUTA

By AME ARARE

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黒木屋の主人の気がかりは、いつになってもまとまらぬ娘、お久万の縁談だったが…。【木守り】 吉原に身を落とそうと、武家の誇りは決して捨てない頑なな遊女あさぎが出会ったのは…。【甘露梅】 ほか、親にはぐれ、町名主の許に身を寄せた幼い少女の切なる願い【迷子石】、運命に隔てられた男女の「誓い」の恋【赤い信女】の4編を収録。ひたむきに懸命に生きる日々の中の、呼び合い、重ね合う恋と心を温かく見つめた、大江戸純情ロマン――!!

EVIL FLOWERS
Edo Karuta Volume 01 Chapter 04+extra
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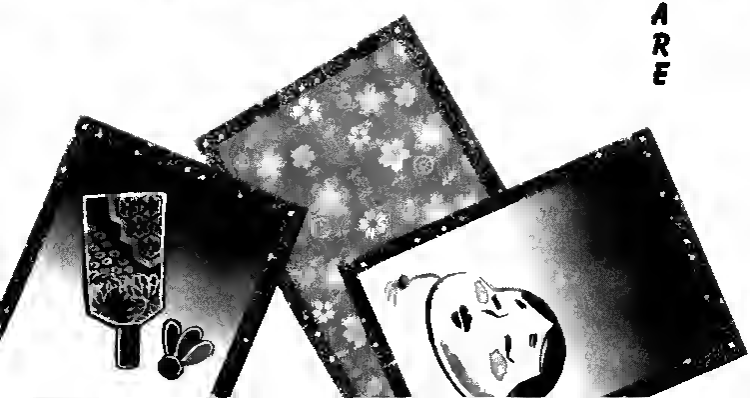


【KARUTA】

The origin of the word comes from "carta," which means "paper products" or "playing cards" in Portuguese and also "Ka awase," which is a traditional game in the Heian period

Like 'Iroha Garuta' or 'Hyakunin Isshu,' it came to be the present form of grabbing the required card before the opponent. On the other hand, it became widespread among the common people as a means of betting. You can find many pictures of people enjoying Karuta in the many forms of art during that time period, like craftworks, Japanese woodblock prints, depictions in reading material and illustrations for a printed book

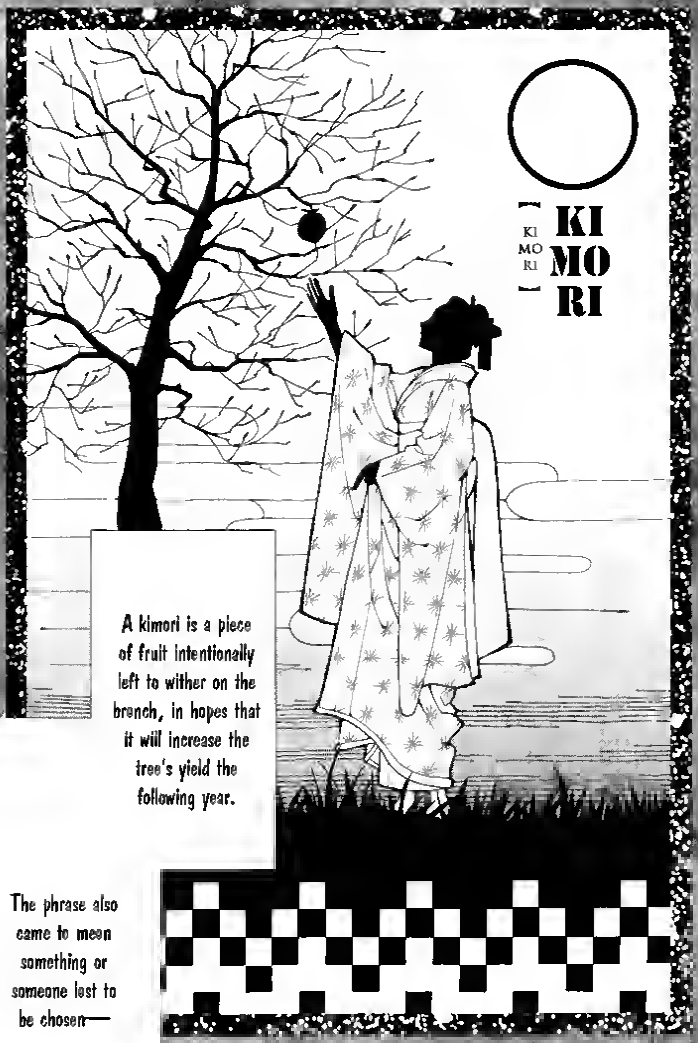
【EDO】

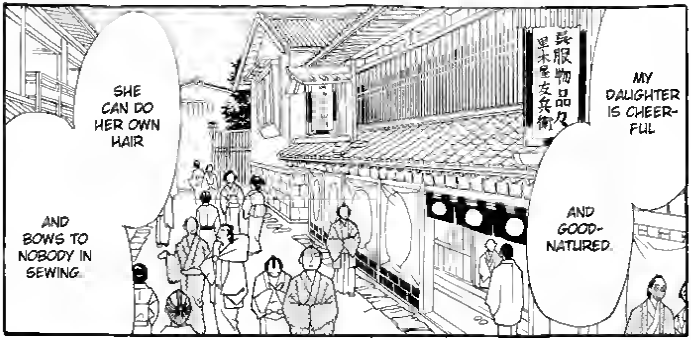
It is said that the name is derived from the phrase "bay entrance" (the literal meaning of Edo)

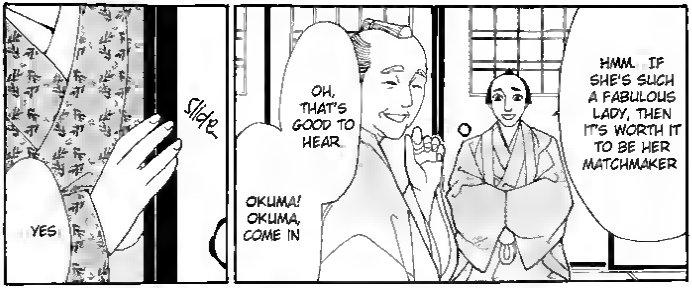
It used to be the domain of the Muesshi Province, which developed remarkably as the center of Japan's politics for about 260 years from 1603 with the inauguration of the Tokugawa shogunate to 1868 when it was renamed as Japan. Many samurai residences were built around the Edo castle with the surrounding streets populated by houses of the common people. It's estimated that 100,000 or more people lived in Edo, the largest city known as "eight-hundred-and-eight-towns" * People who came from other places come to stay, settle down or leave. Edo culture also bloomed beautifully and became the trendsetting area of eastern Japan

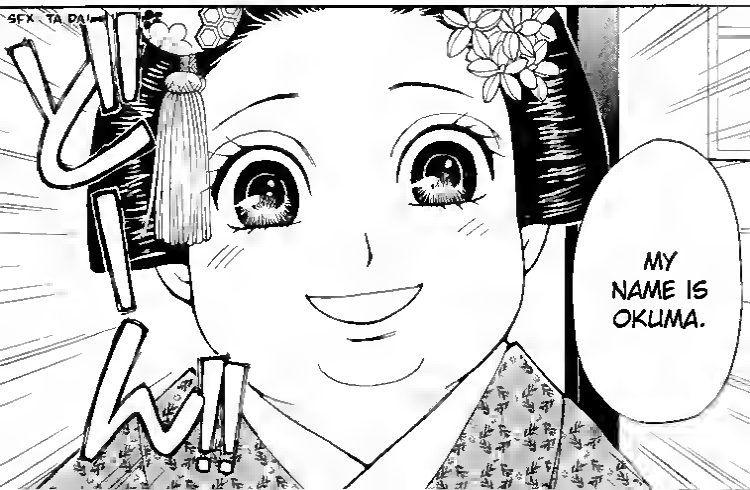
* T/N: The number traditionally associated with being "innumerable."

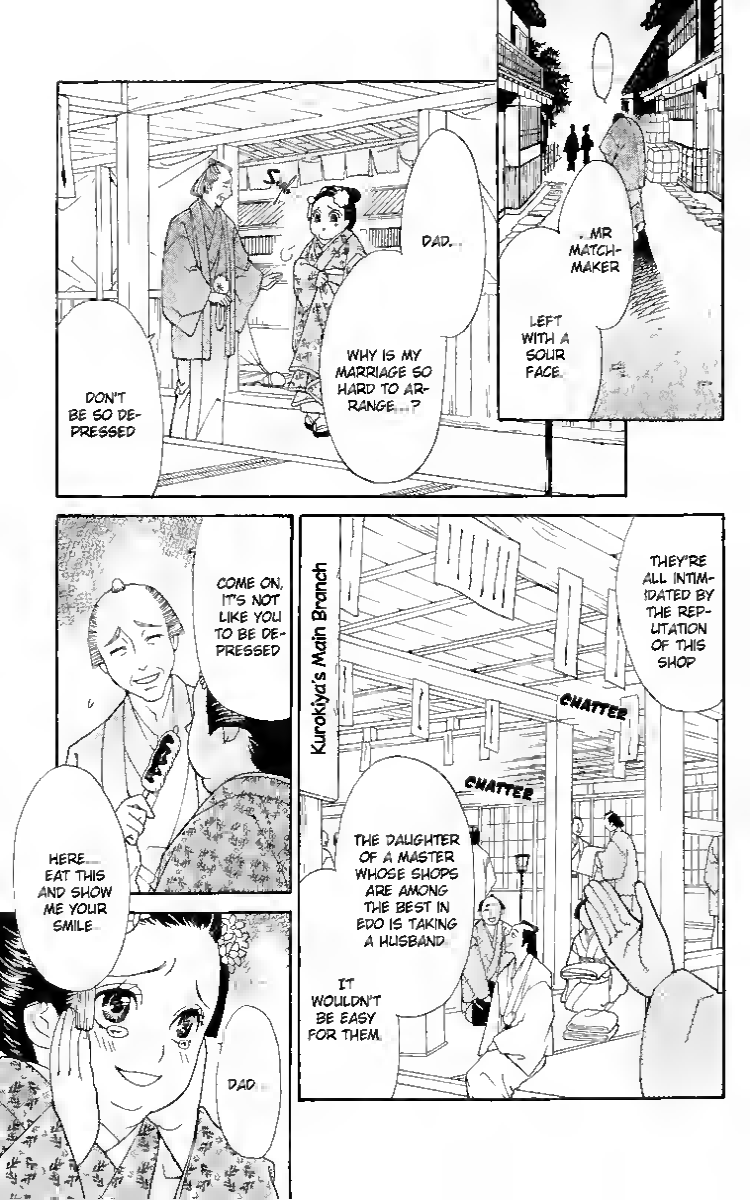
EDO KARUTA


KI
MO
RI
KI
MO
RI
A kimori is a piece of fruit intentionally left to wither on the branch, in hopes that it will increase the tree's yield the following year.
The phrase also came to mean something or someone lost to be chosen—


MY DAUGHTER IS CHEERFUL
AND GOOD-NATURED.
SHE CAN DO HER OWN HAIR
AND BOWS TO NOBODY IN SEWING.

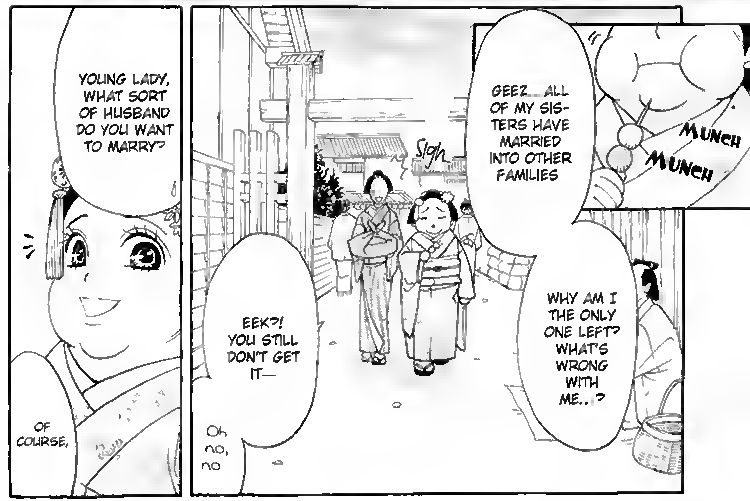

HMM. IF SHE'S SUCH A FABULOUS LADY, THEN IT'S WORTH IT TO BE HER MATCHMAKER
OH, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
OKUMA! OKUMA, COME IN
SLIDE
YES.


SFX TA DA!
MY NAME IS OKUMA.


Kurokiya's Main Branch
THEY'RE ALL INTIMIDATED BY THE REPUTATION OF THIS SHOP
CHATTER
CHATTER
THE DAUGHTER OF A MASTER WHOSE SHOPS ARE AMONG THE BEST IN EDO IS TAKING A HUSBAND
IT WOULDN'T BE EASY FOR THEM.
..MR MATCH-MAKER
LEFT WITH A SOUR FACE.
DAD...
WHY IS MY MARRIAGE SO HARD TO ARRANGE...?
DON'T BE SO DEPRESSED
COME ON, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE DEPRESSED
HERE... EAT THIS AND SHOW ME YOUR SMILE
DAD

MUNCH
I WON'T LET THIS GET ME DOWN...!
WELL, MASTER MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING THERE.
BUT THERE AREN'T MANY GUYS WHO ARE A GOOD MATCH FOR HER.

I WON'T BE TOO PICKY WITH MEN.


YOUNG LADY, WHAT SORT OF HUSBAND DO YOU WANT TO MARRY?
OF COURSE,
EEK?! YOU STILL DON'T GET IT—
Oh, no, no
GEEZ... ALL OF MY SISTERS HAVE MARRIED INTO OTHER FAMILIES
MUNCH MUNCH
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE LEFT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME..?

I WANT SOMEONE LIKE MY FATHER..
OH NO.
WHOOPS!
What a cute daughter you are!
Here
Eat mine too
I hope you can find someone who surpasses Master...
I HOPE SO.
STOMP
STOMP
WAIT, YOU SWEET BUN.
A SWEET BUN...?
TURN
TURN
HEY, IT'S YOU.
Giggle
YOU'RE OCCUPYING THE ROAD OF GREAT EDO

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DON'T BE AN EYESORE ON THE STREET.
...WALK AWAY!
...!

キャあああ
SFX SCREECH
SFX CLANG
...THIS IS INTERESTING.
BRING IT ON
CHUNK
OH NO.
HEY... SOMEONE STOP THEM...!
HE'S FIGHTING FOR ME...!
LAST

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EEEERK!
SFX: WAAAH!
CLAP
CLAP
...NO.
OH, WELL... THANK YOU. THANK YOU SO MUCH!
...NO THANKS ARE NECESSARY
...GOODBYE.

KUMA WON'T EAT A BEAN JAM BUN..
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
I live to see her eat food happily...
HONEY...
STARED OUT
SHE'S PROBABLY JUST LOVE-SICK OR SOMETHING.
L-LOVE...?!
...WHAT ON EARTH IS WRONG WITH HER?
REALLY?!
YOUNG LADY! I'VE ASKED ABOUT HIM FOR YOU!
"I DON'T KNOW OF HIS CIRCUM-STANCES,
BUT HE LIVES IN THE TENEMENT NEARBY."
STEP
STEP
"HE'S RYONOSUKE KAWAGUCHI-SAMA."

GROWLING...
"HE'S STILL SINGLE!"
Slide
"BESIDES, IT SEEMS"
HELLO—
Caw
Caw
SUDDENLY
...?!
OH, GOOD MORNING
YOU FINALLY WOKE UP
MMM.
SMELLS GOOD.

WHO ARE YOU..?
NO WHAT IS THIS..?
OH I'M SORRY, BUT I USED YOUR KITCHEN WITHOUT ASKING
MY NAME IS OKUMA OF KURO-KIYA
I'M HERE TO SHOW YOU MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR HELP LAST TIME
And these are some bean jam buns souvenirs for you
GROWLING
OH, OKAY..
CLINK
HERE, ENJOY YOUR MEAL
..THIS IS GOOD!

GOBBLE
GOBBLE
I...
FOUND THE ONE THING I ENJOY MORE THAN EATING...
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT ! FEEL FREE TO ASK FOR MORE HELPINGS
..DAD
OH, MUCH APPRECIATED
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KAWAGUCHI-SAMA..
HE DIDN'T THINK OF ME AS A BOTHER, DID HE ..?
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
AH— ... ♡

NO MORE WAITING...
YOU'LL BE OUT ON YOUR EAR IF YOU CAN'T PAY RENT!!
—Never mind, I'll go to his place, again...!
JOLT
OKUMA-DONO*?
Sigh...
SEEMS LIKE I CAME AT THE WRONG TIME.
HIDE

*T/N: dono is an honorific meaning lord or lady

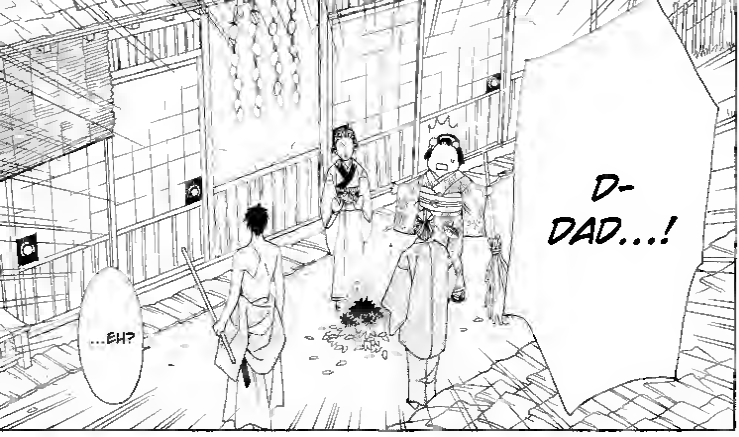
I MADE YOU WITNESS SUCH A DISGRACEFUL SIGHT
NO...
EH..
IF YOU'RE GIVING ME THEM OUT OF SYMPATHY,
DON'T COME HERE, AGAIN
RIGHT!
I BROUGHT BEAN JAM BUNS.. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?
BUT I CAN'T RECEIVE YOUR KINDNESS ANYMORE
—SORRY,

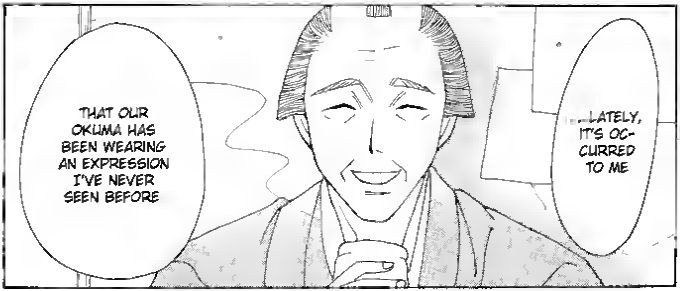
YOU MAY LAUGH.
THAT ISN'T WHAT I'M DOING—
BUT EVEN I
STILL HAVE PRIDE, NO MATTER HOW WORTHLESS...
...
...THEN,

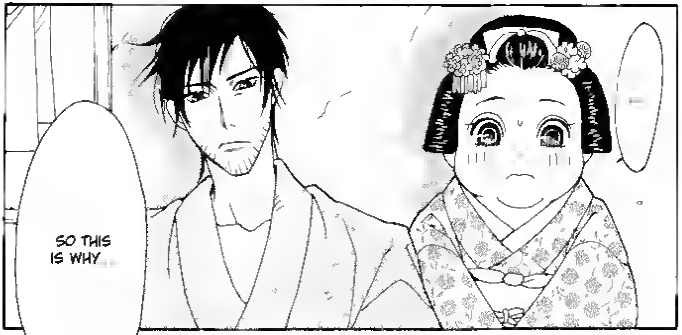
SFX: DOSUKOI!*
YOU HAVE TO EAT EVEN MORE!
...?!
SINCE YOU'RE SO SKINNY,
ALL YOU CAN HAVE IS WORTHLESS PRIDE!
*T/N: The cry that sumo wrestlers make
...I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HELP,
TAKE OUT
Y-YOU...
I'LL SUPPORT YOU
WITH A HEART AS BIG AS MY BODY...!
BUT... WHEN YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME, LEAN ON ME...!

Hmph.
...WHEN I TALK TO YOU,
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE MY WORRIES ARE ALL GONE.
..!
..I SHALL
RECEIVE IT WITH THANKS.

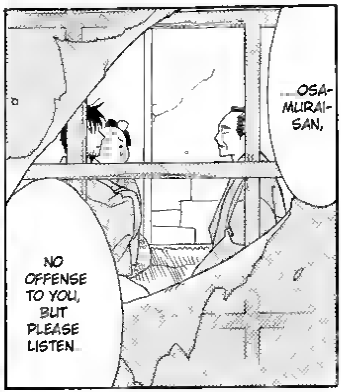
KAWA-GUCHI-SAMA HAS CHANGED A LOT.
OH... I HAV-EN'T DONE ANY-THING.
UH-HUH.
CLAP
CLAP
I SHOULD THANK YOU, OKUMA-CHAN.
HE WAS SO SCARY THAT I COULD HARDLY SPEAK TO HIM.
DO YOU WANT SOME?!
W-WHAT? IT'S TOO SOON...!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TIE THE KNOT WITH HIM?


D-
DAD...!
...EH?

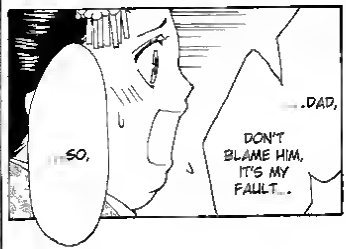

...LATELY, IT'S OC-CURRED TO ME
THAT OUR OKUMA HAS BEEN WEARING AN EXPRESSION I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE


SO THIS IS WHY...

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO REMOVING YOUR NAME...
FROM THE SHISEKI
TO BECOME MY DAUGHTER'S HUSBAND...?

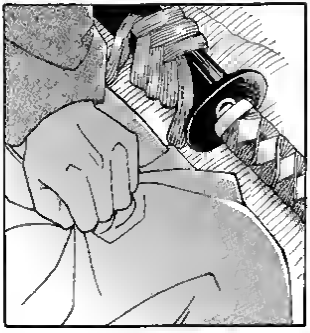

...OSAMURAI-SAN,
NO OFFENSE TO YOU, BUT PLEASE LISTEN.

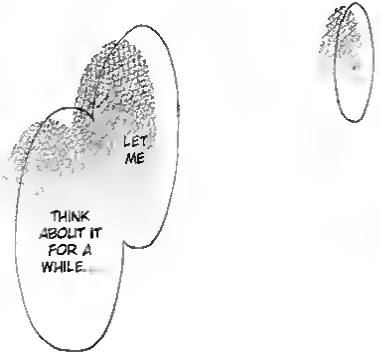
...KUMA MUST TAKE GOOD CARE OF HERSELF BECAUSE SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A KURO-KIYA HEIR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
VISITING A MAN'S PLACE FREQUENTLY BEFORE HER MARRIAGE
WOULD BE DIS-REPUTA-BLE.


...DAD,
DON'T BLAME HIM, IT'S MY FAULT...
...SO,

SHOULD YOU ENTER THIS HOUSE-HOLD,
YOU WOULD BE FREE TO LIVE AS YOU PLEASE
—OF COURSE

YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON KUMA HAS LIKED.
NO MATTER WHO IT IS, I WANT MY DAUGHTER TO LIVE TOGETHER IN HAPPY UNION THAT'S WHAT PARENTAL LOVE MEANS.
DAD...




LET ME
THINK ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE...

WE'VE STAYED FOR TOO LONG. SORRY.
NO...

OKUMA, LET'S GO HOME.
...OKAY.

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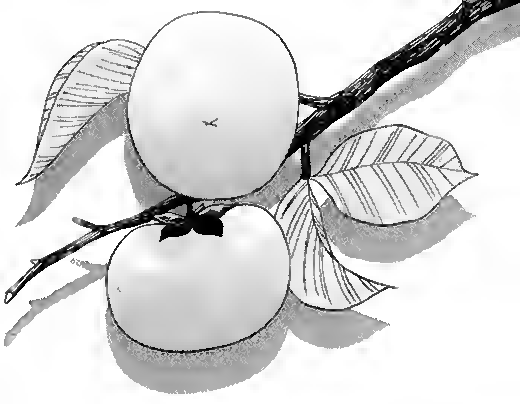
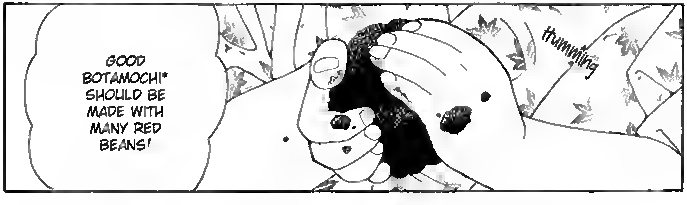
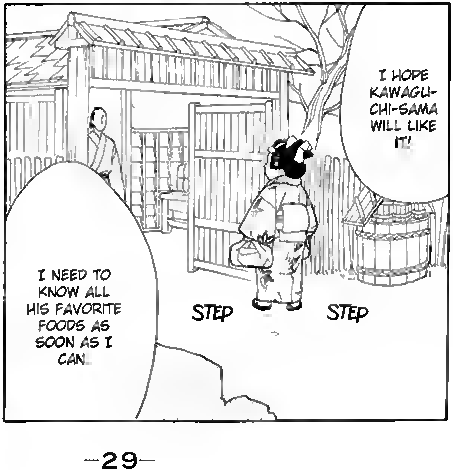


* T/N. Botamochi is a Japanese traditional rice cake with a sweet red paste made from red azuki beans.





Thank You for
Everything

...OH, I REMEMBER NOW.
TEA SHOP
SOMETHING FUNNY HAPPENED AROUND THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.
A FATTY WOMAN WAS RUNNING AROUND EDO WITH A PALE FACE
Ready, set
UNTIL SHE EVENTUALLY DROPPED.
IT TOOK FOUR MEN TO CARRY HER.
SFX: THUD THUD THUD
I WONDER WHO THAT WOMAN WAS.
A ha ha
Here you go
..SHE MUST BE THAT SHELTERED GIRL OF KUROKIYA.

I HEARD SHE WAS DITCHED
BY A MAN AFTER HER FATHER OFFERED HIM A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.
POOR GIRL...
EVER SINCE THEN, SHE HASN'T STEPPED A SINGLE FOOT OUTSIDE HER HOUSE
...
...WHAT A TERRIBLE STORY!
WHO THE HELL RAN AWAY FROM HER..?!
CRY
...CAN I HAVE ALL OF YOUR BUNS?
BUNS
EH? ALL OF THEM?!
OSAMURAI-SAMA, YOU REALLY LOVE THEM, HUH?

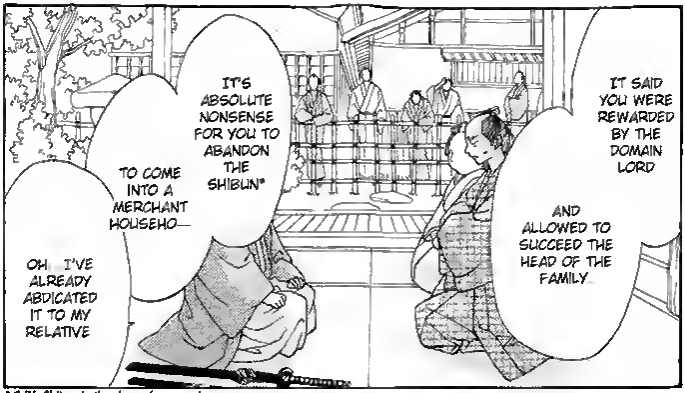
NO
STARE
—THAT SCAR..
IF IT ISN'T KAWAGUCHI-SAMA!
EEK ...?!
THAT "RYOSUKE KAWAGUCHI...?!"
BUZZ...
IT'S A SOUVENIR FOR A WOMAN
WHOM I'VE CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE.
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
WHO THE HELL IS HERE?
HEY, DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM!

IT SAYS THAT THE MASTER OF THE KAWAGUCHI HOUSEHOLD, A DIRECT RETAINER OF THE SHOGUN, WAS KILLED,
THE NEWS OF HIS STORY H VE BEEN FLOATING AROUND EDO...!
ORDERING HIM NOT TO COME BACK UNTIL HE AVENGED HIS FATHER.
AND THE LORD KICKED RYONOSUKE-SAMA OUT OF THE HAN,
HE FINALLY FOUND AND KILLED HIS ENEMY.
AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF PERSE-VERANCE,
THAT SCAR IS PROOF OF IT.

...HONEY!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW BADLY YOU'VE HURT OKUMA...!
KUROKIYA'S ANTIQUE AND GOODS
...I WONDER HOW YOU STILL HAVE THE FACE TO COME HERE.
CHATTER
IT SEEMS A MAN WHO BADLY REJECTED HIS DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE PROPOSAL
HAS COME BACK!
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT'S GOING ON?
...I KNOW THIS IS A BIT MUCH TO SAY—
BUT TODAY I CAME TO ACCEPT THE OFFER
TO BE OKUMA-DONO'S HUSBAND.
I FEEL TERRIBLE FOR WHAT I'VE DONE TO OKUMA-DONO.

PISSED
WHAAA...
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT?!
WHOA... DID HE LOSE HIS MIND?
HEY! OSAMURAI-SAN, I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA!
YOU KNOW, IT SEEMS LIKE
HIS DAUGHTER'S SO FAT THAT SHE CAN'T EVEN GO OUTSIDE NOW—
GLARE
SORRY, I TAKE THAT BACK
...WELL,
I, WHO HAD NO TOMORROW,

...AM TERRIBLY SORRY FOR DISAPPEAR-ING WITHOUT WARNING
BUT THAT WAS ALL FOR OKUMA-DONO.
I COULDN'T ACCEPT THE MARRIAGE PROPOSAL
BEFORE I ATTAINED BY OBJECTIVE AS A SAMURAI PLEASE UNDERSTAND
...
...KAWA GUCHI-SAMA.
I ALSO READ
THE ARTICLE YOU HAVE ALLUDED TO.
SIGH
CREAK


IT SAID YOU WERE REWARDED BY THE DOMAIN LORD
AND ALLOWED TO SUCCEED THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY...
IT'S ABSOLUTE NONSENSE FOR YOU TO ABANDON THE SHIBUN*
TO COME INTO A MERCHANT HOUSEHO—
OH. I'VE ALREADY ABDICATED IT TO MY RELATIVE

* T/N. Shibun is the class of samurai

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KAWA-GUCHI-SAMA...
AS HER FATHER, I HATE TO SAY THIS...
BUT OKUMA IS NO LONGER THE SAME PERSON YOU KNOW.
...DO YOU STILL WANT TO SEE HER...?
YES.
OKUMA,
YOU'RE LISTENING, RIGHT...?
COME OUT

Rattle..

KAWA-
GUCHI-
SAMA...!
SFX. EEEEEH

WHO'S THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL?!
COULD IT BE...?!
OKUMA...!
I'M SORRY. IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOU'RE WORN OUT LIKE THIS...!
SHE'S THAT FATTY DAUGHTER?!
SFX: TUMBLE
SHOVE
HEY, LET ME SEE HER!
WHOA!
DON'T PUSH ME, YOU IDIOT!
OH CRAP...!
SHOVE

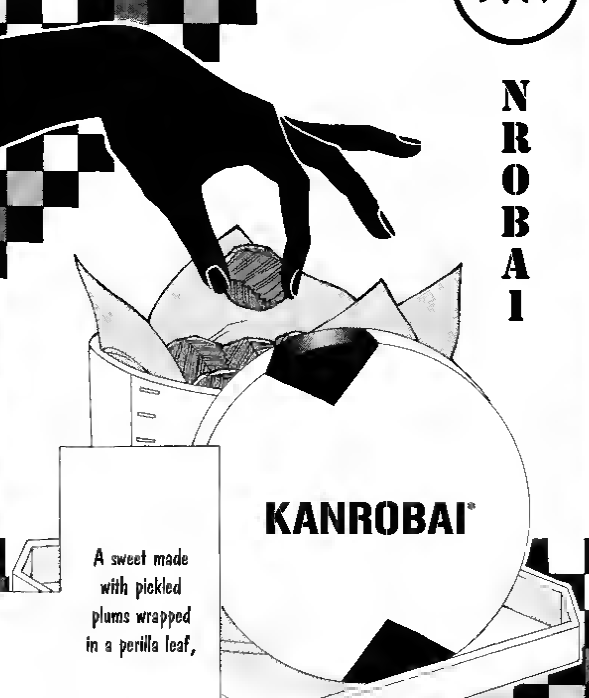
* T/N: She's comparing Okuma to the harvest fruit. Okuma previously had no suitors, but this year, many men wish to marry her.

《END》

江戸カルタ

KA

NROBAI

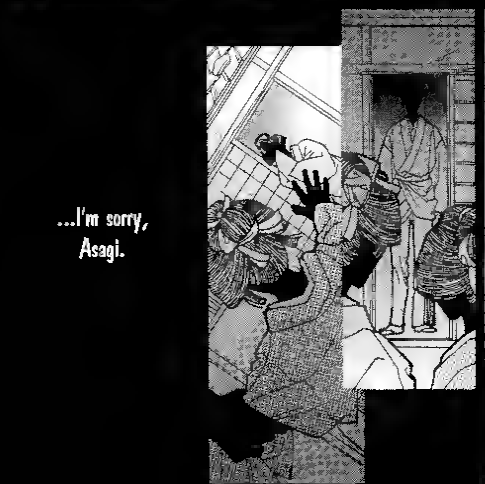


A sweet made with pickled plums wrapped in a perilla leaf,

something to bring and share with a Jorou*.

*TN: A TYPE OF JAPANESE WAGASHI OR SWEET ORIGINATING IN YOSHIWARA, EDO (1603-1868)
*TN: A WOMAN RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICING A MAN

*T/N RITUAL SUICIDE



Yoshiwara
大
Please forgive m....
AH! HOT, HOT!!
ASAGI! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING TO A CUSTOMER?!
HE'S THE ONE IN THE WRONG!
TOUCHING ME IN SUCH A PLACE...!
OUTRAGEOUS !!
HE MAY BE A CUSTOMER,
BUT HE SHOULD STILL WATCH WHERE HE PUTS HIS HANDS!

HON-
ESTLY
THUD
YOU NEED TO STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF PRINCESS!
YOU MAY HAVE BEEN THE DAUGHTER OF A DAIMYOU*, BUT NOW YOU'RE NOTHING.
PEOPLE SOLD TO THIS PLACE,
BE THEY A WARRIOR'S DAUGHTER OR A FARMER'S DAUGHTER, THEY'RE ALL THE SAME.
YOU WERE SOLD! SO ENOUGH WITH THE HIGH AND MIGHTY!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A JOROU!
*T/N: A POWERFUL TERRITORIAL LORD

I'm the one superior to you now!

AS PUN-ISH-MENT...
YOU CAN TAKE THE PIPS OUT OF THOSE PLUMS.
YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TO MAKE KANROBAI, RIGHT?
DO THEM ALL BY YOURSELF AND BRING THEM TO THE TEA ROOM!
ASAGI-CHAN
SLAM
SHOULD I HELP YOU ?
KNOT
NO! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF PERSON IT WILL BE.
BUT IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T MAKE A SCENE...
I THINK I SHOULD SAY THIS.
..I
ASAGI-CHAN...
YOU WILL SOON TAKE YOUR FIRST CUSTOMER...
CLENCH
I KNOW
AND IF YOU WANT TO ATTRACT A DAIMYOU,
YOU HAVE TO GET TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THE TAYUU*

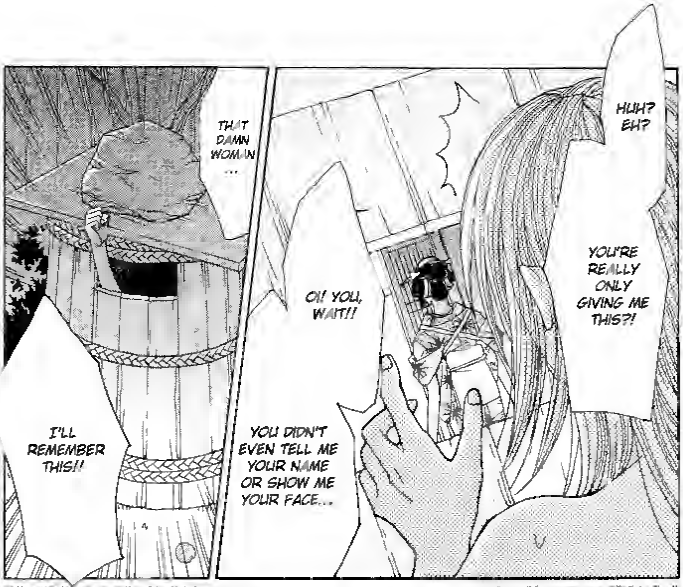
*TAYU HIGHEST-RANKING JOROU

I can't help but wish I could go back to how things were.
—But
...It's not like I resent my parents.
GRAB
...
Oi.
Oi...
SOME-BODY ?
IS ANY-BODY THERE —?
Slide
.....?

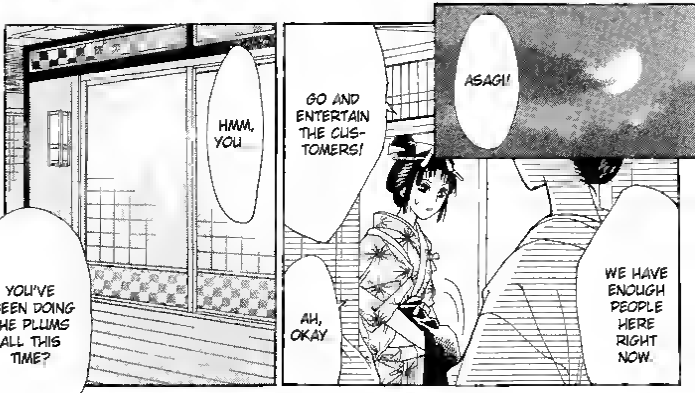
O—I
WAVE
WAVE
...
THEY'RE PICKLING A HUMAN WITH THE PLUMS ?
AH! YOU THERE, DON'T S'POSE YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT?
OOOO—I

THUMBS UP
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M THE HEIR OF THE GREAT KUROKIYA FAMILY
MY NAME IS MANKI-CHI
I WENT A BIT TOO FAR, LOST ALL MY MONEY,
AND GOT THROWN IN HERE
BUT I CAN JUST GO HOME AND GET SOME MORE,
SO IF YOU HELP ME OUT, I PROMISE YOU'LL PROFIT FROM IT!
Fu ha ha ha
HAH?
SFX. GRAB
ガシッ
WAI—
JUST WAIT A MINUTE!
Eeeehh ?!
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN COMMONERS.
WALKS AWAY

HMPH.
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR PLAYING AROUND TOO MUCH.
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE TO DIE!
HAVE SOME PITY
I HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE THIS MORNING...
PLEASE, I JUST NEED SOME FOOD...
TUG
TUG
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAME OVER HERE...
...
IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT...
I'LL
YANK
DIE...
...
WHAT?! JUST PLUMS?!
GIMME SOMETHING MORE FILLING, WOULD YA?
HUH?
CHUCK
THIS IS PLENTY FOR A STUPID PERSON!
!
ROLL
ROLL
HERE.


HUH? EH?
YOU'RE REALLY ONLY GIVING ME THIS?!
OI! YOU, WAIT!!
YOU DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME YOUR NAME OR SHOW ME YOUR FACE...
THAT DAMN WOMAN...
I'LL REMEMBER THIS!!

I don't have time to waste on this guy!

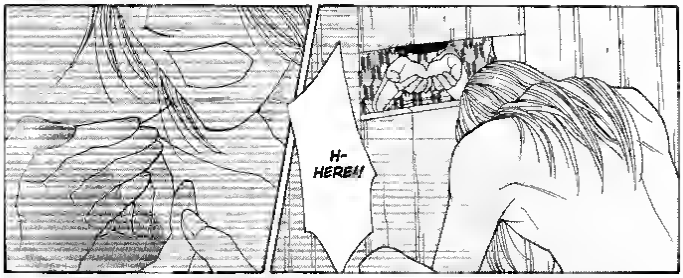

ASAGI
GO AND ENTERTAIN THE CUSTOMERS!
WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE HERE RIGHT NOW.
AH, OKAY
HMM, YOU
YOU'VE BEEN DOING THE PLUMS ALL THIS TIME?

FLOP
HMM. ACTUALLY,
RATHER THAN PLUMS,
I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO TASTE YOU, ASAGI.
shiver
AH, YOU'RE VERY SHARP, SIR.
WILL YOU BE TRYING OUR PLUMS THIS YEAR?
I GUESS THE SMELL OF PLUMS IS STILL ON MY CLOTHES...
Oho ho
—?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "JUST LIKE THE PLUMS?"
!!!
WHAT? YOU DON'T KNOW?
I KNOW, I KNOW.
JUST LIKE THE PLUMS, ASAGI CAN'T BE EATEN JUST YET...
K- Keep cool...!!
Yanka-san*, please don't joke around

*T/N. A POLITE WAY OF ADDRESSING THE CUSTOMER

SI—LENCE
INSIDE UNRIPE PLUMS
IS A POISON.
IF YOU EAT THEM AS THEY ARE, YOUR BODY WILL SLOWLY WEAKEN, AND YOU'LL DIE.
Trembl
Trembl
Trembl

GYAAA!!
OI! MANKI-CHI!
IF YOU'RE ALIVE SAY SOME-THING!
DAH
DAH
YOU'RE NOT DEAD ARE YOU?!
UA...
WA...
WATER
WATER, RIGHT?!
DASH
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

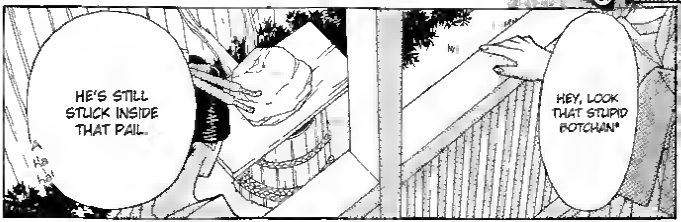

H-
HERB!!

*T/N: LIME IS PLUM IN JAPANESE

...THANK YOU.
FOR COMING BACK.

This is the first time..
anyone's ever said thank you to me....

WOW, I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
LIME-CHAN SAID SHE'LL COME AGAIN ♡
NO, I SAID I WON'T!
...I WAS JUST A BIT CONCERNED!
DON'T THINK I'LL DO IT, AGAIN!
Hmph

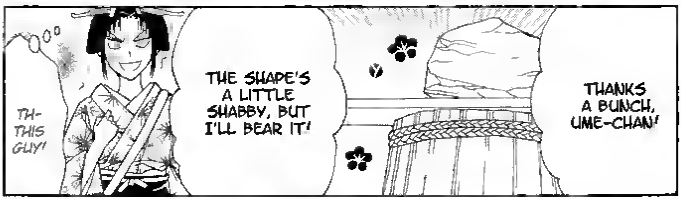


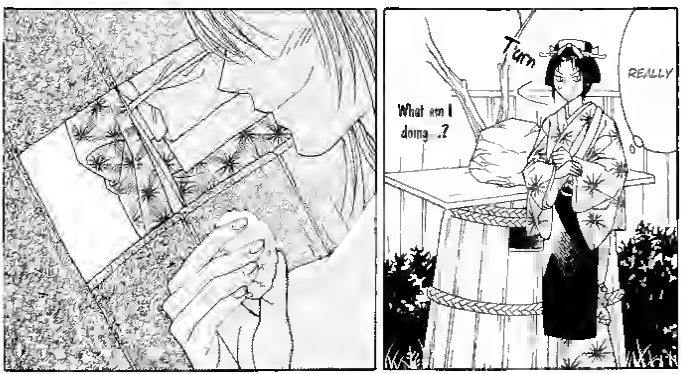
*T/N: A WORD SIMILAR TO 'YOUNG MASTER'

QUICKLY
QUICKLY
Not good, not good...
I probably shouldn't get involved with that guy anymore....
...HMPH. IF HE'S REALLY THE SON OF THAT KL...OKIYA HOUSEHOLD,
WHY HAVEN'T THEY COME TO GET HIM?
STOP THAT, YOU LOT!
IF HE HEARS YOU, WE'LL LOSE BUSINESS!
ZOOM
...

*T/N: HAI MEANS 'YES'

HERE.
OOOOOOOH ♡


THANKS A BUNCH, UME-CHAN!
THE SHAPE'S A LITTLE SHABBY, BUT I'LL BEAR IT!
TH-THIS GUY!


REALLY
Turn
What am I doing...?

HEY, LIME-CHAN.
WILL YOU
LISTEN TO ONE MORE REQUEST ?
what?
what a shameless onushi*!
WELL..
*T/N: ONUSHI MEANS "MASTER" OR "OWNER"
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.
O-LIME*... WHAT'S HER REAL NAME?
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE..?
*T/N: HE CHANGES THE WAY HE REFERS TO HER SOMETIMES. THE "O" IS A FORMAL ATTACHMENT

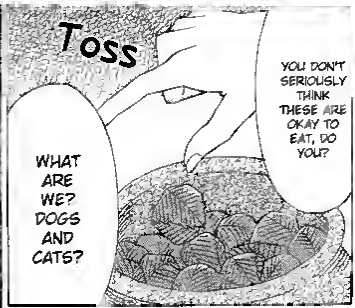
I DON'T REALLY HAVE A GOOD EYE FOR THINGS
SHE SEEMED LIKE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PERSON
BUT WHEN I RAN OUT OF MONEY, MY AIKATA* SUDDENLY GAVE ME THE COLD SHOULDER
YOU KNOW
I CAN'T STAND THIS YOSHIWARA PLACE
*T/N: THE WOMAN WHO WAS ENTERTAINING HIM
I STILL MANAGED TO MEET A GOOD WOMAN...
BUT
Reach
...HEY,
I REALLY WANT TO SEE YOU.
Tug
I THINK
FATE LED ME HERE.
TO MEET YOU...

WHO IS THIS O-UME?
DOKI
DOKI
TH-THAT WAS CLOSE!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE US WAIT?!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE MONEY?!
Yaaaa !!
You think those cheesy words
will work on me?!
RUN
IDIOT
Bleh

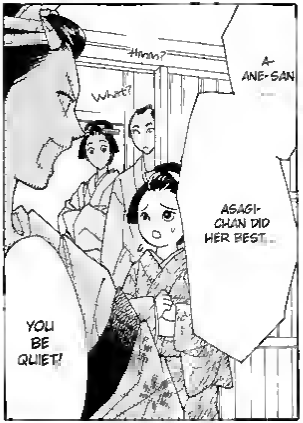
STUUPPID!
RIGHT!
NOW ADD SUGAR AND A BIT OF ALCOHOL, AND YOU'RE DONE!
WOW, ASAGI-SAN!
YOU DID THEM ALL BY YOUR-SELF!
FUFU!
SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS SIMPLE FOR ME!

ASAGI,
HAVE YOU FINISHED WRAPPING THEM ALL?
AH ANE-SAN
DO THEM, AGAIN.
EH!?
WHAT IS THIS?!
I CAN'T SERVE SOMETHING SO DEFORMED TO OUR GUESTS!

ASAGI IS
THE DAUGHTER OF A SAMURAI,
WHO DIED A WORTHLESS DEATH.


Toss
WHAT ARE WE? DOGS AND CATS?
YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY THINK THESE ARE OKAY TO EAT, DO YOU?

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
TCH...
...


Hmm?
What?
A-ANE-SAN...
ASAGI-CHAN DID HER BEST...
YOU BE QUIET!

This woman...
She's trying to make a fool out of me...!
CLENCH
AND IT TOOK YOU SO LONG, TOO
I SHOULD'VE NEVER ENTRUSTED IT TO YOU.

SFX: SMACK!
...
...Y-YOU..
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SHINZOU*...
*T/N: THIS IS ASAGI'S RANK AMONG THE JOROU
THUD

Stop this!!
キャあああ
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

...HONESTLY!
JUST HOW MANY TIMES
DO YOU INTEND TO CAUSE TROUBLE AROUND HERE?!

I WON'T LET YOU BAD-MOUTH MY PARENTS...!
E, EVEN THOUGH MY FAMILY HAS FALLEN,
I AM STILL THE DAUGHTER OF A WARRIOR.
YOU KNOW NOTHING...
SO DON'T DARE MAKE FUN OF MY FATHER'S DEATH!
SIGH
Hmm.
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE KNOW NOTHING.

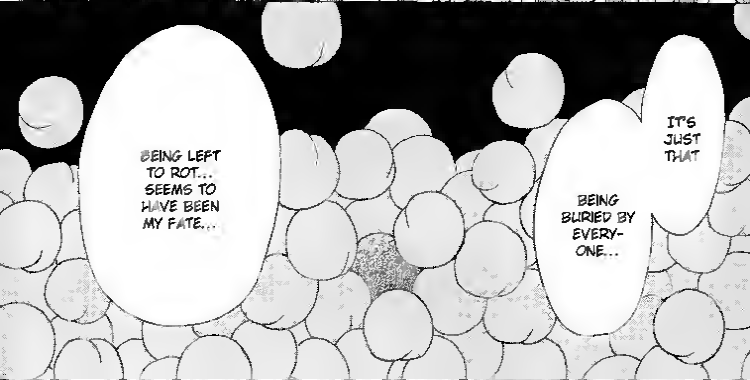
CONCEIT-
ED,
AND USE-
LESS YOU
ARE!
...!
GRAB
HOW-
EVER,
I'M
WELL
AWARE
OF
EXACTLY
HOW
ARRO-
GANT,
SFX: SLAP
Hmph
HOW MANY
TIMES DO WE
HAVE TO
REMIND YOU
OF YOUR
PLACE?
STARTING
NEXT
MONTH,
YOU'LL BE
A SANCHA-
JOROU*.
*T/N: IN OTHER WORDS, SHE WILL
START TO TAKE CUSTOMERS.

AND
WE'LL BE OFFERING YOU AT A CHEAP PRICE.
So prepare yourself!
AHAHA
AAHH
SO HUNGRY
SFX: GRUUMBLEE
DID LIME-CHAN COME TO SEE ME, AGAIN?
...EH?
HUH?
SFX: THUD
UWAH !!

...?
UME-CHAN, IS THAT YOU?
...
HERE.
...?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
UME-CHAN...
NOT REALLY ...
I JUST ...
FINALLY UNDERSTOOD, I GUESS...

*T/N: HIGH-RANKING LADIES IN THE BROTHEL WHO SERVE LORDS AND HIGH CLASS CUSTOMERS

*T/N: THAT LEVEL = COMMONER'S LEVEL



GUH...
I'm glad
I got that off my chest...
DRIP
UH...
HIC.
LIME-CHAIN

YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
?!

SFX: PULL
?!
YOU...!
YOU THINK YOU CAN COME HERE AND STEAL FOOD?! COME WITH ME!
AH...
H- HEY, WAIT A SECOND!
SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!

SFX: RATTLE RATTLE
DAMMIT!
SOMEONE LET ME OUTTA HERE!!
DAM-MIIIIT!!
I SAID WAIT!
UME-CHAN!
DAMN, DAMN!
STUPID..!!

I'M FROM THE KUROKI-YA.
I'VE COME
TO PICK UP OUR YOUNG MASTER
Kuroki-ya
EXCUSE ME
YES?
Kuroki-ya
SFX: DASH DASH DASH
THAT IDIOT BOTCHAN REALLY IS THE HEIR OF KUROKIYA!
Whaaat ?!
BOW BOW
THIS IS BAD!

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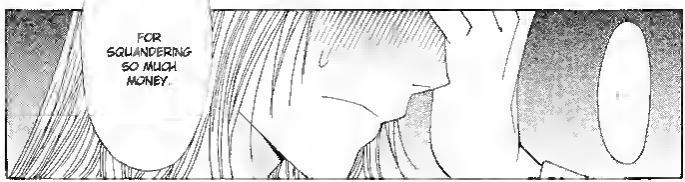
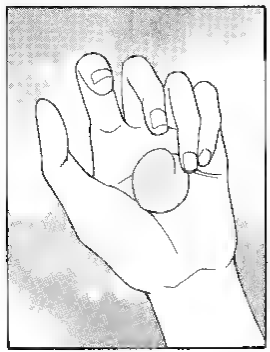
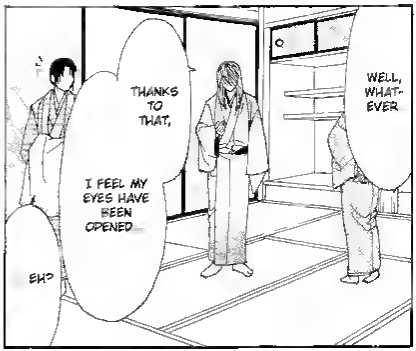






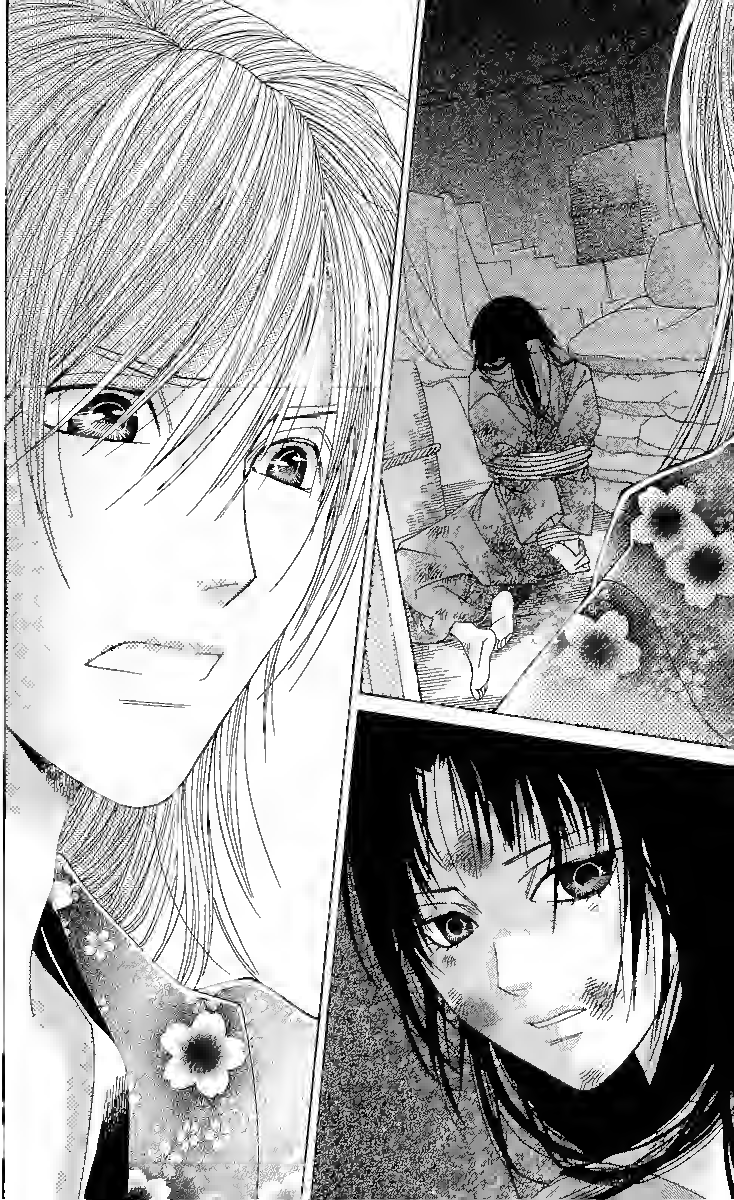
...NOW, THEN.
GATHER ALL THE WOMEN!
I'M GOING TO FIND
MY BELOVED LIME-CHAN ...!
SFX: CLENCH

SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS! EVERYBODY, GO TO THE HALL!!
WHAT IS THIS...?
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
EH?
IT LOOKS LIKE
THAT BOTCHAN IS SEARCHING FOR HIS SPECIAL SOMEONE ...
AND HE SAYS
HE'LL GIVE HER WHAT-EVER SHE DESIRES...!

SFX. SUDDENLY

...
...NOPE.
SHE'S NOT HERE.
IS ANYBODY HIDING SOMEWHERE?
YUU..!
BOT CHAN!
CHATTER CHATTER
IS THIS REALLY EVERYONE?
OI BABA*,
EH...?!
* T/N: NAME FOR AN OLD LADY

SFX: BAM
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DANNA-SAMA...!
WHA...
SFX: BAM
WAIT...!
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE LADIES ONE MORE TIME!
SFX: BAM
I MEAN, YOU SAID YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME OR FACE!
JUST HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND HER?!
AH—
THAT PLACE IS...!!



THIS IS HER..

WHO ...?
SQUEEZE
IT'S ME! MANKICHI!
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD MISTAKE THESE HANDS!

...I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN WORKING WITH PLUMS,

CLUMSY...
KIND...
LIME-CHAN'S HANDS..!

BUT THESE FINGERS.
THESE PRETTY FINGERS DYED WITH RED..

With nothing but my hands as a clue,
LOOK AT WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO YOU.
CHATTER
he was able to find me
...

SO YOUR NAME IS ASAGI-CHAN
I SEE...
Fuhahaha
NOW TELL ME WHAT YOUR HEART DESIRES!
ANY-THING!
WITH MY MONEY, I COULD EVEN BUMP YOU TO THE HIGHEST RANK IN THIS PLACE!!
!
FOR EVERYTHING UP TILL NOW
Pat
THANKS
Pat
THIS TIME,
IT'S MY TURN!

desire...?
What I...
...
SUDDENLY
BUT
...
IF YOU'D LIKE,
YOU COULD CHOOSE TO BE MY WIFE...
PLEASE CONSIDER IT...

I WANT...
...I
Kanrobai
ISN'T THAT A YOSHIWARA KANROBAI?
YOU COULDN'T RESIST EITHER, HUH?
HMM...
I WANT...
NO,
I WAS THINKING OF CALLING MANKICHI AND EVERYBODY TO SHARE
..YOU!
HE'S SET OFF
ON A HUMBLE JOURNEY WITH THAT LADY...!
MANKI-CHI...
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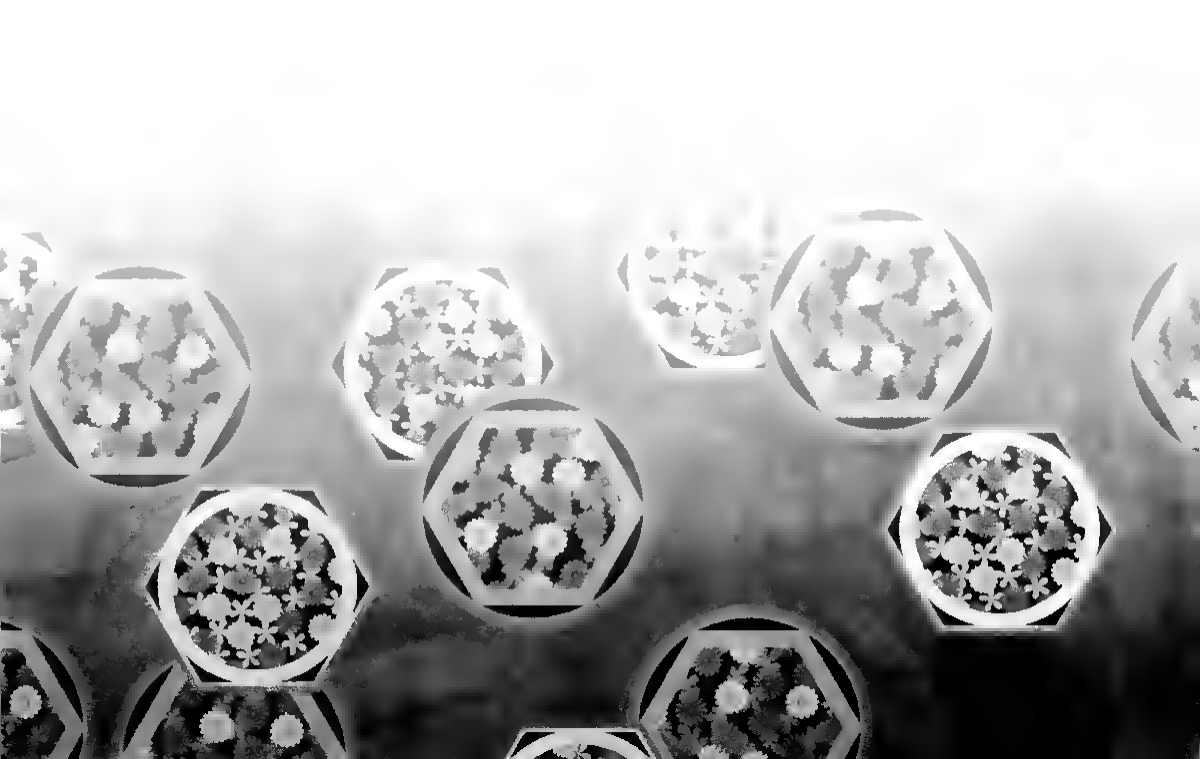
THANKS TO ASAGI,
WE MANAGED TO SELL ALL OF OUR GOODS!
AS EXPECTED OF A DAIMYOU'S DAUGHTER!
SUCH GODLY SKILLS!
Blush
I- I'M NOT THAT GOOD!
CHOMP
I...
have found the place where I want to be.
Father, Mother. .
BITE

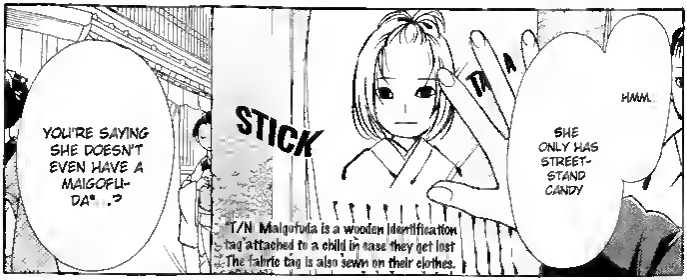
*T/N: THANKS FOR THE FOOD

The End



EDO KARUTA

MAIGOISHI
ASKER
A person who finds a lost child posts a paper with details of the kid on Maigoishi.
RESPONDER
In case the parent doesn't show up, the kid will be regarded as an abandoned child, and representatives of the town where the kid was found will take responsibility for fostering them.


YOU'RE SAYING SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A MAIGOFUDA*...?
STICK
HMM...
SHE ONLY HAS STREET-STAND CANDY
*T/N Maigofuda is a wooden identification tag attached to a child in case they get lost. The fabric tag is also sewn on their clothes.

HI
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
TWITCH

LOOK,
UNTIL WE FIND YOUR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS
YOU'LL BE PLACED WITH TAKAJI MACHI-NANUSHI*
TWITCH
*T/N Machinanushi refers to the leader of a town, appointed to act as an intermediary between the magistrate's office and townspeople or the supervisor of a town.

...I
AM TAMA...

Whisper
HOW COULD HE BRING HOME SUCH A SMELL, THE RAGGEDY DUST CLOTH OF A CHILD?
I FEEL SORRY FOR MASTER...
Whisper
OH MY!
WE REALLY GOT THE SHORT END OF THE STICK!
What will happen to me...?
From now on...
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evilflowers.com

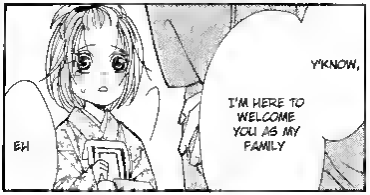
TAMA! HOLD YOUR CHOPSTICKS PROPERLY!
STRAIGHTEN YOUR POSTURE TOO!
Ouch!
SFX: WHACK
LOOK AT OUR SHIROU!
LISTEN, TAMA
AS LONG AS YOU STAY IN THIS HOUSE,
WE'LL TRAIN YOU AS STRICT AS OUR OWN CHILD!
SCA
RED

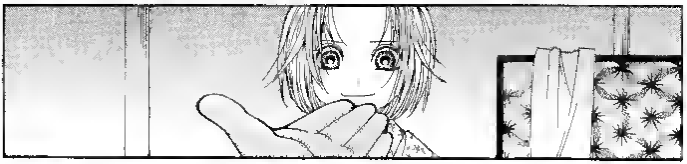
I want to go home now...
SIGH
DRIP
TO YO SHI MA YA*
...DAD..
*T/N: The shop's name
But I might not be able to...
Tama, Dad will take you to a nice place today.
Whoa! There are so many girls, Dad!
Hana...It must be your first time at a festival, Tama.

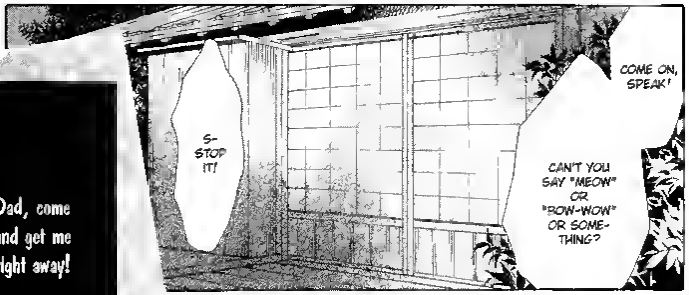
Then
Come on, Dad will get you whatever you want today.
Sorry for not having time to look after you.
I want that candy!
HMM? WHAT'S THIS DIRTY CANDY?
?!
SOB
SFX SNATCH

C'mon Tama.
Give me your paw.

Toss
SHI- SHI-ROU-CHAN GIVE IT BACK TO ME!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME. I DON'T NEED IT


EH
Y'KNOW, I'M HERE TO WELCOME YOU AS MY FAMILY

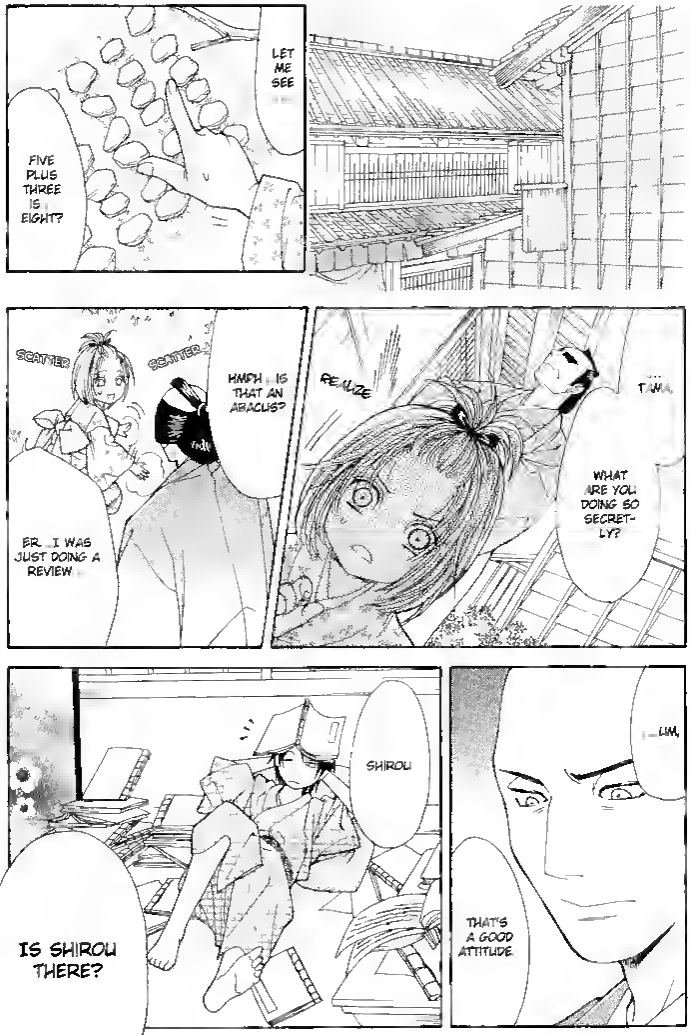



S- STOP IT!
COME ON, SPEAK!
CAN'T YOU SAY "MEOW" OR "BOW-WOW" OR SOMETHING?

Dad, come and get me right away!

TAMA-SAN, YOU FORGOT YOUR ABACUS, AGAIN?!
SWING
NO EX-CUSES!
I- I'M SURE I PUT IT IN MY WRAPPING CLOTH.
ARE YOU SAYING YOUR ABACUS GREW LEGS AND WALKED AWAY?!
GO STAND OUTSIDE!*
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO STUDY!
I...
No matter what happens, I'm waiting for you.
NEENER, NEENER!
YOU
ABAN-DONED CHILD!
I- I'M NOT ABAN-DONED!

* T/N. Children and students are often made to stand outside or in a hallway when they do something bad.


LET ME SEE
FIVE PLUS THREE IS EIGHT?
SCATTER
SCATTER
HMPH... IS THAT AN ABACUS?
ER... I WAS JUST DOING A REVIEW
REALIZE
...TAMA.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO SECRETLY?
SHIROU
IS SHIROU THERE?
...UM.
THAT'S A GOOD ATTITUDE

HUH?!
IT'S JUST AS WELL.
YOU MUST HELP TAMA STUDY
Shi-re
DAD, DID YOU CALL ME?
YOU WERE STUDY-ING TOO SHIROU
WHY DO I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER YOU?
GEEZ
I'LL TEACH YOU.
HOW I'M A DIFFERENT CLASS FROM YOU.
I- I'M SORRY
RIGHT

WHOA...! AMAZING!
NOOO.
LIFT
DO YOU THINK I'D LET YOU TOUCH THEM? YOU STUPID IDIOT.
HOW DO YOU FIND THEM?
IT'S ALL THE STUFF YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE IN YOUR LIFE!
HMPH!
MY DAD COLLECTS ANTIQUES FROM TANG AND HOLLAND FOR FUN.
OH. YEAH!

BUMP...
I'LL JUST TURN YOU IN TO THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE...
WELL, IF YOU DO ANYTHING FUNNY,
SHOO
SHOO
SHOO
I'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF YOU STEAL THEM!
SFX. SHATTER
?!

AAAAAAHHH!
HEY
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND JUST NOW...?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO ENTER THE ROOM!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU DID?!
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE KAPITAN* COMING TO EDO TO ATTEND THE SHOGUN...!
THAT WAS A PRICELESS VASE GIVEN TO MY HUSBAND...

T/N Kapitan is the highest ranking representative of the Holland East India Trading Company

WHO BROKE THE VASE?
SAY IT.
...I
...
I DID IT...

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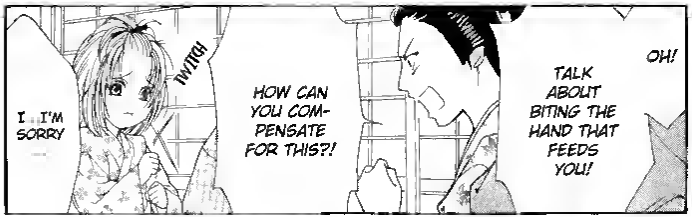
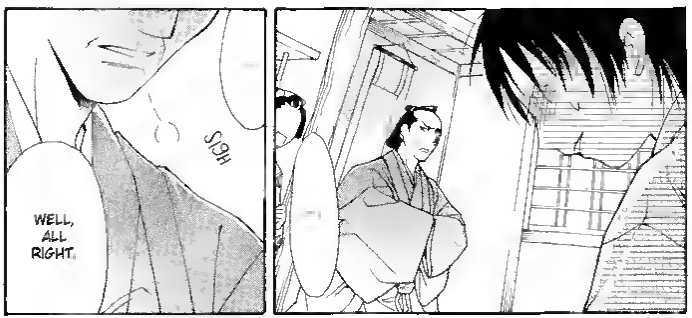
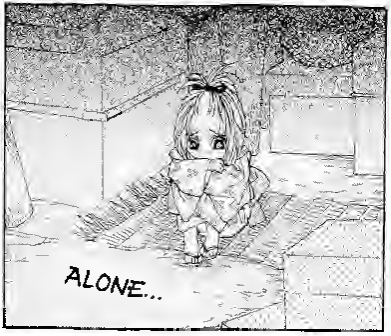





ALONE..

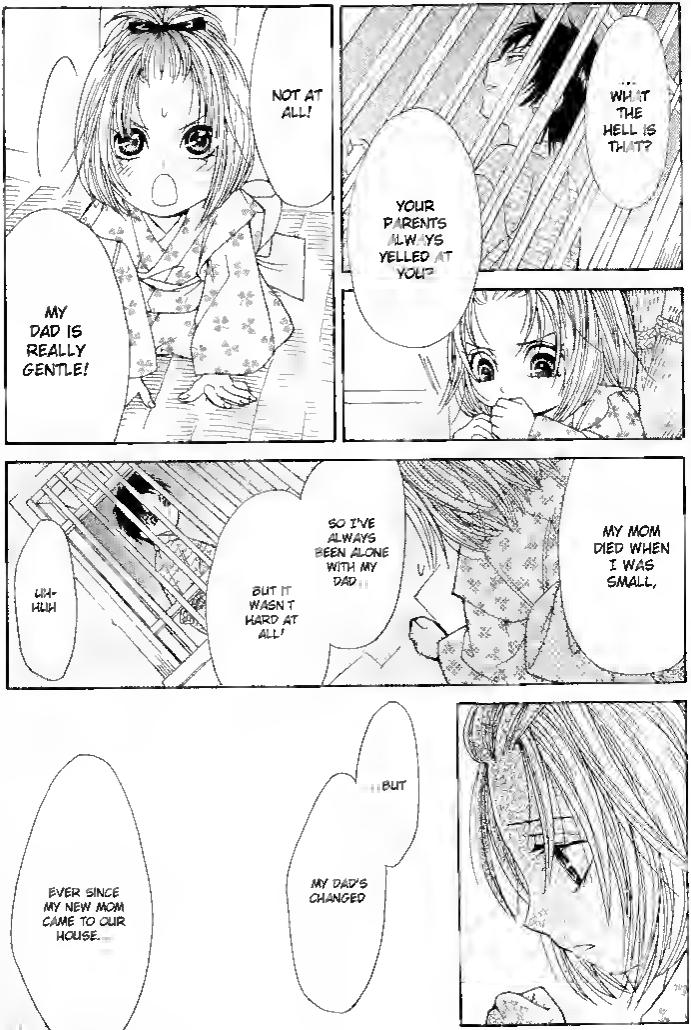
HEY.
BREATHE
COLD..

HEY!

TAMA IS TO NOT HAVE DINNER TONIGHT.
STAY AT THE WAREHOUSE AS PUNISH-MENT.

YOU...
SHIROU-CHAN...
WHY DID YOU LIE TO PROTECT ME?
DON'T THINK YOU HAVE SOME-THING ON ME NOW!
I JUST...
DIDN'T WANT TO SEE MASTER AND MADAM GET ANGRY WITH SHIROU-CHAN..
IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...

...?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN? I DON'T KNOW SUCH A HARD WORD...
DON'T TALK SHIT!
I DON'T NEED SYMPA-THY!
GETTING YELLED BY MY MOM AND DAD...
IS THE SADDEST AND SCARI-EST THING OF ALL...
SO I SHOULD GET YELLED AT...
BECAUSE I...
I'M NOT THEIR REAL CHILD...


NOT AT ALL!
MY DAD IS REALLY GENTLE!
... WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
YOUR PARENTS ALWAYS YELLED AT YOU?
MY MOM DIED WHEN I WAS SMALL,
SO I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE WITH MY DAD...
BUT IT WASN'T HARD AT ALL!
UH-HUH
...BUT
MY DAD'S CHANGED
EVER SINCE MY NEW MOM CAME TO OUR HOUSE...

LOW NOISES
...ARE YOU HUNGRY?
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
SFX: GROOOWWL
EAT THAT CANDY.
YOU'RE STILL CARRYING IT AROUND ALL THE TIME RIGHT?
...HERE.
Drop
I CAN'T!
I HAVE TO EAT THIS WITH MY DAD!

EH..? SHIROU-CHAN, THIS IS ...?
IDIOT! DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!
I'M JUST FEEDING YOU!
BECAUSE I'M YOUR MASTER..!
...THANK YOU, SHIROU-CHAN.

HUH.
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A TEMPLE SCHOOL...
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I'M LEARNING FOR THE FIRST TIME
YOU SURE LOVE STUDYING! ARE YOU STAYING HERE?
ER... YEAH
I WANT TO LEARN THEM QUICKLY!!
SO THAT SHIROU-CHAN...
WON'T BE EMBAR-RASSED OF ME!!

OH?
YOU STILL STUDYING? DON'T GET TOO COCKY!
LET'S PLAY TOGETHER!
HEEEY, SHIROU!
BESIDES, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO LEARN HOW TO READ AND WRITE...
Open
CUT IT OUT.
SHIROU! HOW WILL WE TRAIN THIS TODAY...?
PULL
HAHA, WE'RE TAKING YOU FOR A WALK!
AH...
GEEZ.
I'M BORED OF IT.

STING...
IT'S BORING TO TOY AROUND WITH THAT IDIOT.
A ha ha
HEY!
BWA ha ha
EH...?
LET'S GO OUT-SIDE!
LET HER DO WHAT-EVER SHE WANTS!
OH... OKAY
Shut
WAIT FOR ME—

Did Shirou-chan get tired of me...?
Sigh...
STOP
YOU'RE GOING TO THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE?
...THEN
...YEAH.
WE CAN'T LET TAMA STAY HERE ANY LONGER.
IT'S ALREADY BEEN DAYS...
HER PARENTS STILL HAVEN'T SHOWN UP.

I'm scared...
IF I GET KICKED OUT...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME...?
Huff
Will I be alone like this forever...?
I...
TAP

TAMA...?
...EH...?
D...
DAD...
Dad ...!!

TAMA... THERE YOU ARE...!
DAD! DAD!!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERY-WHERE!!
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY, DAD
Sob
GEEZ, YOU MADE ME SO WOR-RIED!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE WALKED AROUND LOOK-ING FOR YOU!
Sob
ANYWAY, IT'S GOOD YOU'RE SAFE
COME ON, LET'S GO HOME.

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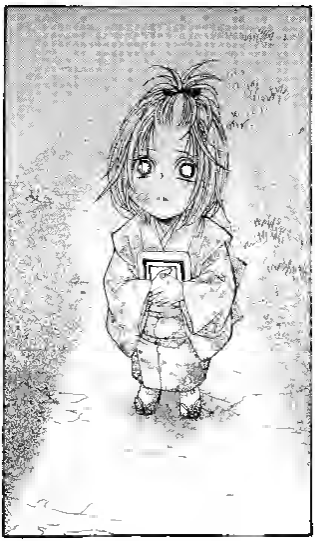
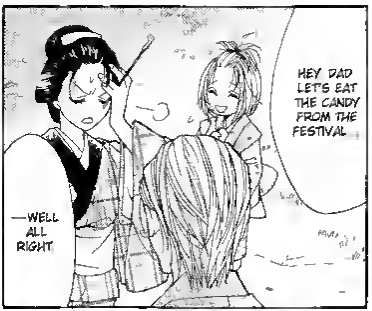
WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR YOU,
I LEARNED READING AND WRITING!
YOU KNOW ?
RIGHT, DAD!
UH-HUH...
THAT'S GREAT...
I want your attention...
Hey, Dad,

...!
TAMA ...?!
My dad always only cared about...
SFX: SLA
SHOOT
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
HEY!
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SO ANGRY ...!
TH UD
ハッ

DON'T BRING THAT UP!
SEE, I'VE BROUGHT HER BACK NOW!
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE, TOO!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN HER TO THE FESTIVAL OUT OF SYMPATHY!





*T/N Zegen means pimp

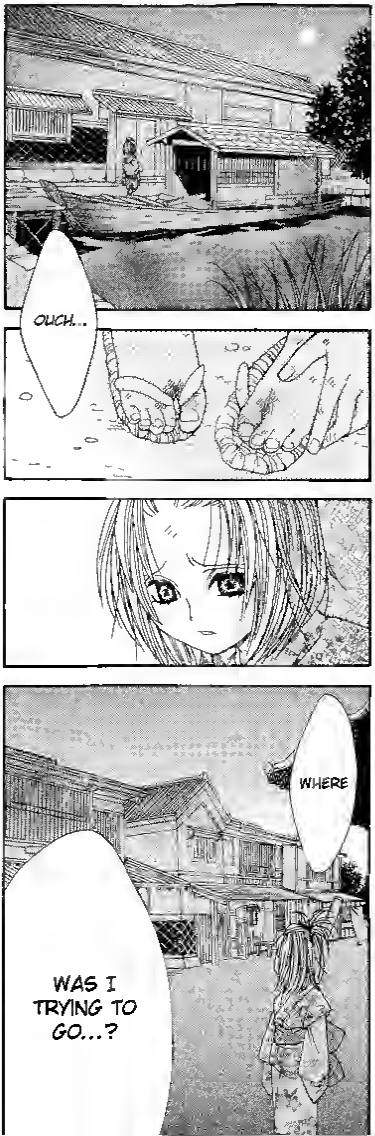
SO THIS KID IS TAMA?
YOU'RE SO CUTE.
NO KIDDING!
YOU MADE US WAIT FOR A MONTH!
I'LL PAY THREE BU FOR THIS KID.
WHAT?! THAT'S TOO CHEAP! CAN'T YOU RAISE IT?!
Eh?
Dad...

...DON'T TELL ME...
YOU WERE GOING TO SELL ME TO THESE PEOPLE...?
...
Scratch
Scratch

Struggle
HEY, DARLING
HEHE, THANK YOU!
I GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE
WE HAVE A DEAL, THEN.
...LIKE YOU PROMISED.
I WILL BUY A NEW KIMONO WITH THIS MONEY!
SFX: DASH
AGH!

SHE FLED!
CATCH THAT BRAT!
HUFF
HUFF
Dad
Dad
I believed you...!
TO YO SHI MA YA

...There's no one



who loves me ...

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RUSTLE
I know there's no
to go
...?

Looking for a girl named Tama.
TAMA
Age 6, 4 Feet Tall
Tama is a precious member of our family.
As soon as you find her,
please tell Takaji, the head of Nishiki town.

MASTER
Sob
Sob
SQUEEZE
MASTER
TAP
I GOT YA.

Let go...
Let go...!
TAMA, COME WITH US!
No!
YOU LITTLE BRAT...! YOU CAUSED ME SO MUCH TROUBLE!
SFX: BUMP

Shirou-chan...?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS DOING TO TAMA?!
HUH? WHO'S THIS SHRIMP?
STAY OUT OF THIS, YOU DAMN BRAT!
LITTLE LAD, I'M THE FATHER OF THIS KID.
WOULD YOU GET OUT OF THE WAY ...?
You are not!

Tama is my little sister ...!

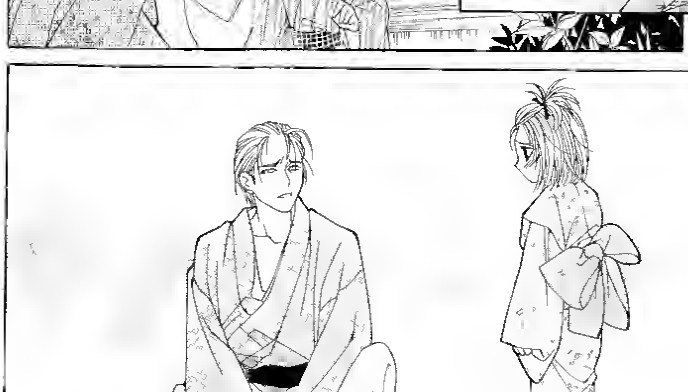
What are you doing to my kids?
YOU LITTLE BRAT
QUIT YOUR NON-SENSE!
GET AWAY!
GRAB
I DON'T REMEMBER HAVING A SON LIKE YOU...
DAD...!

WELL, WELL... MAY I ASK WHO YOU ARE...?
...MY NAME IS TAKAJI, THE HEAD OF NISHIKI TOWN.
TAMA'S BEEN UNDER MY CARE UP UNTIL RECENTLY.
STARE
...I SEE THAT
YOU COULDN'T VISIT THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE BECAUSE OF SOME SHADY CIRCUMSTANCES.
PISSED
I APPRECIATE THAT YOU TOOK CARE OF TAMA.
IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT I'M TAKING HER BACK!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
...I'VE ALREADY SUBMITTED THE SAME WRITTEN PLEDGE TO THE MAGISTRATE,
DUPLICATE
I SWEAR TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAISING TAMA.
TAKAJI
AND IT WAS ACCEPTED.

...I'VE ADOPTED TAMA, AND SHE'S NOW MY LEGAL DAUGHTER.
...AS HER PARENT,
I'LL PROTECT HER AT ALL COSTS!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THAT WASN'T THE DEAL!
H— HOLD ON!
...
...OF COURSE

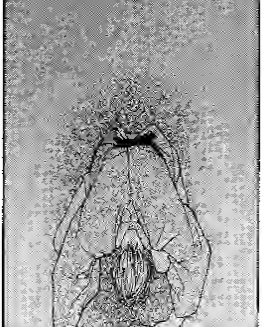
...TAMA,
WE VALUE YOUR HEART.
...CHOOSE WHICH PARENT YOU WANT TO GO HOME WITH.

EEK...
STOP...



I WANTED TO EAT THIS TOGETHER WITH DAD...
SO I KEPT HOLDING IT...
I...
RUSTLE
DAD...

UP TILL NOW...
U...
THANK YOU...
FOR BRINGING ME UP...!



TAMA...!
DASH

TO YO SHI MA YA

I'M SO SORRY..

COME ON.
LET'S GO HOME, TAMA.
WE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU WITHOUT SLEEPING!
IDIOT
IDIOT,
IDIOT!
I- I'M SORRY
SHIROU!

YES...!

I'm never going to lose my way, again.

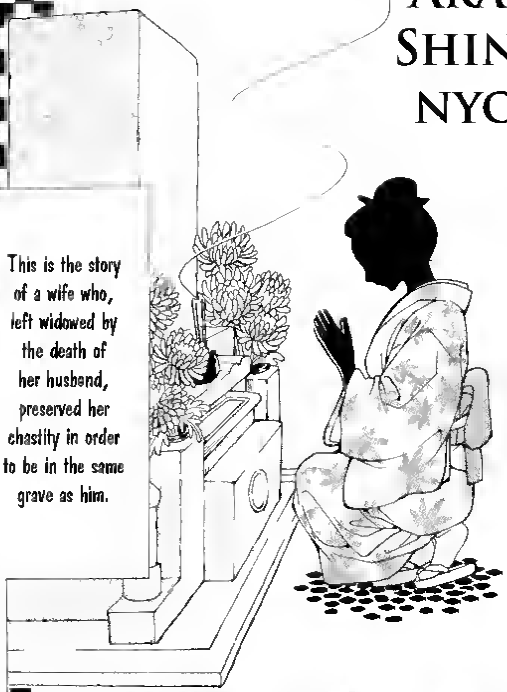
I...I'M HOME...

*Tawal Ninte, A Special Edition of Comic Magazine Friend, the June issue, 2009

Because
I am not alone anymore.
《 End 》

江戸カルタ

Akai Shin-nyo



This is the story of a wife who, left widowed by the death of her husband, preserved her chastity in order to be in the same grave as him.

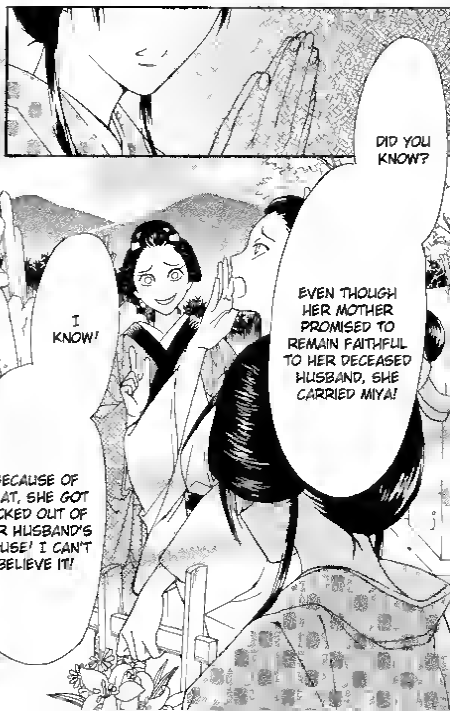
She came to be known by that name* after she carved her Buddhist name* beside her husband's and painted it in red.

* T/N. In Buddhist tradition, one is given a Buddhist name after death—and it is what's written on their gravestone.

* T/N. The name "Akai Shinnyo" which is the title used after a woman's Buddhist name on her gravestone. It means "red sworn widow."

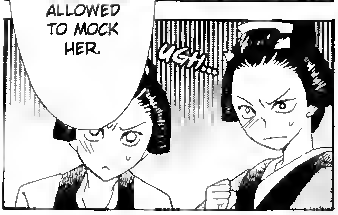
LOOK OVER THERE.
THAT'S MIYA, THE DAUGHTER OF THAT AKAI SHINNYO.

Ignore


DID YOU KNOW?
EVEN THOUGH HER MOTHER PROMISED TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO HER DECEASED HUSBAND, SHE CARRIED MIYA!
I KNOW!
BECAUSE OF THAT, SHE GOT KICKED OUT OF HER HUSBAND'S HOUSE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
HAH! SHE PUTS ON AIRS..!
I'M SURE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOUR FATHER IS!
TAP

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM MY PRINCESS?

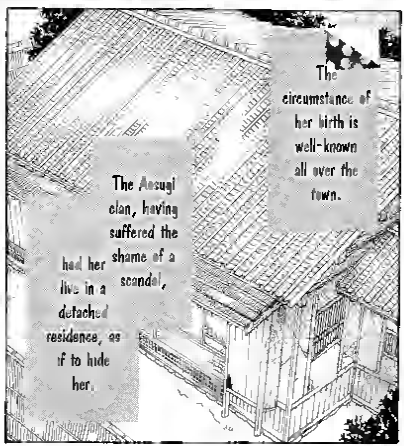
... PEOPLE OF THE LOWER-CLASS LIKE YOU


ARE DEFINITELY NOT ALLOWED TO MOCK HER.
Ugh...

THUD
WAH!
INDEED MIYA-SAMA'S MOTHER MOVED BACK TO HER PARENTS' HOUSE AFTER SHE WAS WIDOWED, BUT SHE IS
STILL A DAUGHTER OF THE AOSUGI HOUSEHOLD, A DIRECT RETAINER OF THE SHOGUN
Ha Ha Ha

THERE WILL BE NO END OF IT
IF YOU BOTHER WITH EVERY ONE OF THEM
LET'S GO!
HMPH!
...SEIICHI
...BUT
MY APOLOGIES, MIYA-SAMA
I WANTED TO HAVE SOME QUIET TIME FOR MY MOTHER'S DEATH ANNI-VERSARY SO...
...THANK YOU.

has no one to protect her.


The circumstance of her birth is well-known all over the town.
The Aesugi clan, having suffered the shame of a scandal, had her live in a detached residence, as if to hide her.

...Besides,

I am the only one who serves my princess now...
OH, PLEASE. DON'T BE SO TIMID!
Ha Ha
YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR HEAD UP HIGH, MIYA-SAMA.
FOR MY FAMILY'S SAKE,
IT MIGHT BE BEST IF I DON'T APPEAR IN PUBLIC ANYMORE..
Dip
...SAY, SEIICHI.
—.
YOU KNOW...
IT WOULD BE ENOUGH JUST TO HAVE YOU BY MY SIDE...

TO SEE MIYA-SAMA MARRY INTO A GOOD FAMILY IS
WHAT I HOPE FOR THE MOST.
IS... THAT SO
...Yes, it is, Miya-sama.
You can't continue to stay in such a place.
SN
AP
"THAT CHILD WAS BORN BECAUSE I COULDN'T BEAR THE LONELINESS"
"BUT SHE IS STILL MY DEAR CHILD THAT'LL NEVER CHANGE"
It's not just for you but
for Tsura-sama, too...
"PLEASE SEIICHI..."

"TRY HARD TO HELP HER BE HAPPY"
"FOR HER MOTHER."
"PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THAT CHILD."
SFX: SPLIT
MORE-OVER, PEOPLE FROM THE AOSUGI HOUSE-HOLD
HAVE BEEN KEEPING THEMSELVES AWAY FROM HERE EVER SINCE TSURU-SAMA PASSED AWAY
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW...?
EXCUSE ME
Miya-sama has already reached a mar-riageable age.
If she contin-ues to stay with only a Kenin* like me, she'll be the target of neighborhood gossip.
Her reputation will be damaged, again
*T/N: A servant
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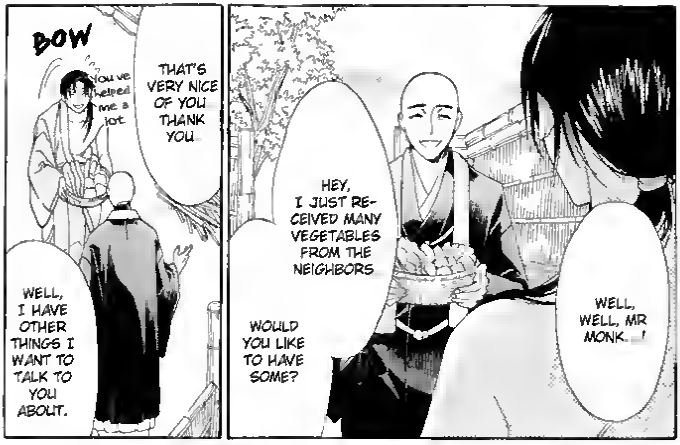
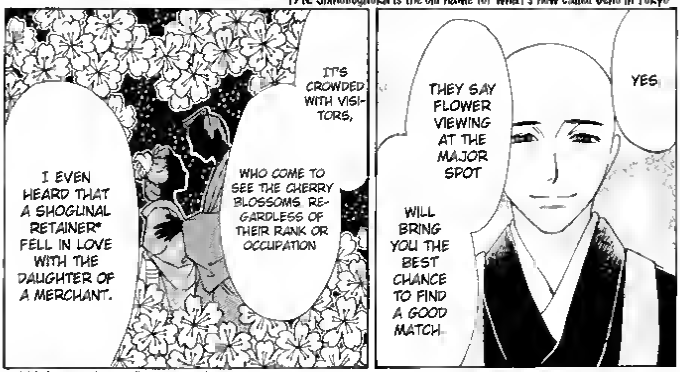

BOW
You've helped me a lot.
THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU THANK YOU.
WELL, I HAVE OTHER THINGS I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
HEY, I JUST RECEIVED MANY VEGETABLES FROM THE NEIGHBORS.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE SOME?
WELL, WELL, MR MONK...!

...TO FLOWER VIEWING?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY BRINGING YOUR YOUNG LADY TO SEE IT?
CHERRY BLOSSOMS AT SHINOBUGAOKA* ARE NOW AT THEIR PEAK.

*T/N. Shinobugaoka is the old name for what's now called Ueno in Tokyo


I EVEN HEARD THAT A SHOGUNAL RETAINER* FELL IN LOVE WITH THE DAUGHTER OF A MERCHANT.
IT'S CROWDED WITH VISITORS,
WHO COME TO SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS REGARDLESS OF THEIR RANK OR OCCUPATION
THEY SAY FLOWER VIEWING AT THE MAJOR SPOT
WILL BRING YOU THE BEST CHANCE TO FIND A GOOD MATCH.
YES.

*T/N. Someone (especially a samurai) who has sworn fealty to a shogun

SPEAKING OF SHINOBUGAOKA,
THERE'S THE KANNEI TEMPLE WHERE THE SHOGUNATE* FAMILY'S GUARDIAN DEITY IS ENSHRINED.
I SUGGEST THAT THE TWO OF YOU GO FLOWER VIEWING TO INTERACT WITH OTHER SAMURAI THERE.
—...

* T/N: The shogun's feudal government

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO GO TO SUCH A FAR PLACE..
PLEASE DON'T BE SO RESERVED! YOU SHOULD ENJOY THE FULLY BLOOMED CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
WHAT ABOUT THIS KIMONO..? I THINK THIS ONE WILL BE OKAY
I DON'T WANT TO STAND OUT...
OH NO!
AND MR. MONK HIMSELF SUGGESTED THAT FOR YOU.
...ALL RIGHT, IF YOU INSIST..

EH...?
YOU'RE GOING FLOWER VIEWING.
I JUST WANT YOU TO ENJOY IT WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT OTHERS.
I WANT TO SEE MIYA-SAMA BEAUTIFULLY DRESSED UP.
I HAVE TO GET A NEW KIMONO FOR MIYA-SAMA...!
Anyhow,
HOW COULD THEY BE SO HEARTLESS TOWARDS THEIR OWN GRAND-CHILD...?
SLIDE SHUT!
YOU MAY LEAVE NOW.
.SHE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED ENOUGH MONEY FROM LIVING ON US

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I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET THIS COMB...
...IN THE END,
Sigh.

SEIICHI, ARE YOU READY TO GO FLOWER VIEWING?
I'M READY FOR IT.
EH. . EEK?

WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
THIS SHORT-SLEEVED KIMONO IS A KEEPSAKE FROM MY MOTHER...
SE-SEII-CHI!
SAY SOME-THING!
OH.. WELL...
THIS IS JUST LIKE THE PROV-ERB, "FINE FEATHERS MAKE A FINE BIRD."
...HEY!

URK
HMM? WHAT'S THAT?
I KNEW I DIDN'T NEED TO PREPARE
SUCH A THING
OH, WELL, THIS IS...!
Ha Ha
YOU KNOW...
I FOUND THIS WHEN I WAS ORGANIZING TSURU-SAMA'S BELONGINGS!
Hide

BA-DUMP
THANK YOU, SEIICHI.
THEN...
SHALL WE GO FLOWER VIEWING?
BUZZ...

HEY! WHOSE DAUGHTER IS SHE?!
SHE'S SO PRETTY!
AS I THOUGHT,
EVERY GIRL IS EXCITED.
...But
MY PRINCESS IS
MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYONE.

WOBBLE
DO YOU WANNA DRINK WITH ME ..?
YO!
YOUNG'LIN, YOU'RE SO CUTE!
BUZZ...
A FEW DECADES HAVE PASSED SINCE I LEFT MY HOME-TOWN..
I LIVE ONLY FOR MY WORK. EVERYTHING IS FOR MY HAN..!
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'VE BEEN APPOINTED AS THE KIKIYAKU OF MY HAN*.
* T/N. A kikiyaku is a person who makes contact with the shogunate and resides at a feudal lord's mansion. The han is a territory during the Edo era, the name of the estate belonging to a warrior in Japan.
I'M SORRY, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO DECLINE YOUR OFFER
WHAT'D YA SAY?
Guard
!!!
AAH!
PULL
MIYA-SAMA!
YOU SHOULD REWARD THIS DE-VOTED MAN
COME WITH ME.

SHE IS THE YOUNG LADY OF A DIRECT RETAINER OF THE SHOGUN!
IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE A DRINKING PARTNER,
PLEASE ASK OTHER GIRLS!
HUH.
PLEASE PUT YOUR HANDS OFF, SIR...!
...!
STUMP
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE COMPLAINING TO?
DO YOU STILL WANNA DO THAT? YOU BAS-TARD!
HA HA HA
—...!
MAKING ME YOUR ENEMY IS LIKE
MAKING AN ENEMY OF THE HAN.
SEII-CHI...!

DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH, MR KIKIYAKU?
* T/N: Ometsuke is the supervisor of feudal lords and vassals
FLAP
I THINK I'LL LET OMETSUKE-SAN* KNOW ABOUT THIS DIRECTLY
FLAP
AND HAVE HIM IMPOSE MANY OTETSUDAI* ON YOU.
* T/N: Otetsudai was a system of construction assignments imposed by the shogunate with huge financial burdens to let the han make up for their failure or mistake.
CHILL...
WHICH HAN DO YOU BELONG TO, I WONDER?
SNEAK
OOPS,
I'VE FORGOTTEN THAT I HAVE AN ASSEMBLY SOON
JUDGING BY THE WAY YOU ACT, I BET YOUR HAN HAS MONEY TO BURN
YOU DRINK HEAVILY IN BROAD DAYLIGHT...

He He
IT WAS NOTHING.
SIR...
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME.
...LET'S SEE
Glare
I'M HERE IN SECRET TODAY.
DON'T BE SUCH A DRAG.
MAY I ASK FOR YOUR NAME?
WITH ME, YOUNG LADY?
WOULD YOU ADMIRE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS
IN RETURN FOR SAVING YOU,

...
YES, IF YOU WISH TO...

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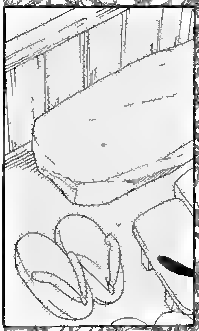
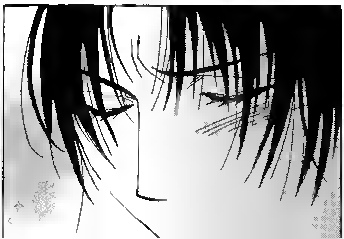
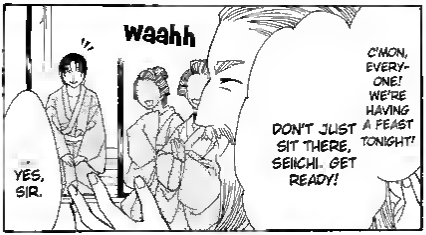


I KNEW I DIDN'T HAVE ANY-THING...



TODAY IS A HAPPY DAY!
REALLY...
I NEVER EXPECTED SUCH A DAY WOULD COME.
OH, EVERY-ONE'S ALL HERE...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
SEIICHI! YOU HAVE TO HE, IR THIS!
EH... WHO MADE THE OFFER TO HER...?
YOU'VE MET HIM BEFORE, RIGHT?
I HEARD HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO HELP MIYA.
MIYA IS
GOING TO BE WELCOMED AS A CON-CUBINE!



I'M HUMBLED TO MENTION HIS NAME, BUT
HE IS MUNATAKA KOUJIMA-SAMA, THE SON OF THE SUGA DOMAIN LORD.
HE SAID HE FELL IN LOVE WITH MIYA AT FLOWER VIEWING
AND OFFERED GRACIOUSLY EVEN AFTER KNOWING HER CIRCUM-STANCES...!

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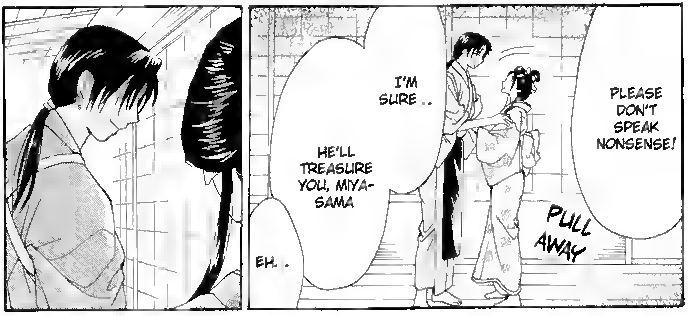
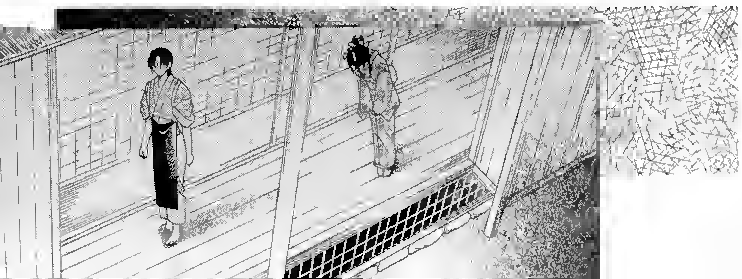
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU WATCH OVER THE POT?
YEAH.
...I should be happier.
I never thought my dream would come true so soon....
YOU'RE SO EXCITED, SEIICHI.
OF COURSE! NOTHING GIVES ME MORE PLEASURE THAN THIS!
...WITH ALL MY MIGHT.
THEN I'LL GO GET SOME VEGETABLES.
OKAY
I HAVE TO CELEBRATE FOR MIYA-SAMA.

I'M BEGGING YOU, SEIICHI...!
RUN AWAY WITH ME!
EH...
.....
I DON'T WANT TO BE A CONCUBINE, DEFINITELY NOT...!
!
THE PERSON I LOVE IS...


PLEASE DON'T SPEAK NONSENSE!
PULL AWAY
I'M SURE..
HE'LL TREASURE YOU, MIYA-SAMA
EH..

CON-GRAT-ULA-TIONS,
MIYA-SAMA.

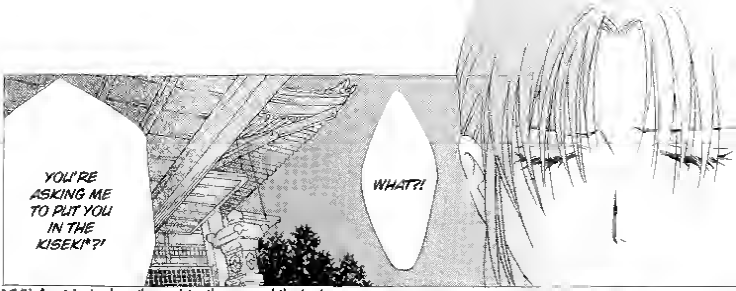


IF THERE'S SOMETHING LEFT I CAN DO FOR HER...
EXCUSE ME... MIYA-SAMA HAS A GUEST...
MIYA, HURRY AND GET READY TO GO TO HIS RESI-DENCE!
MR. MONK
...I HAVE
SOMETHING TO TELL YOU...

Seiichi's Tomb
...IT JUST KIND OF ENDED.
HE SLIPPED AND FELL INTO THE RIVER...
AND WASN'T BREATHING WHEN HE WAS WADED ASHORE...
AH
Seiichi
AAH..
AAAAAHHH

Seven Years Later—
KAZUYA! GET OVER HERE!
YES.
GEEZ, YOU SURE ARE A HARD WORKER!
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU ENJOY THE NIGHTLIFE WITH ME?
MANKICHI-BOTCHAN,
YOU SHOULD QUIT GOING OUT AT NIGHT AND JUST SETTLE WITH ONE WOMAN.
HMPH!
I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT FROM YOU WHO'S ALMOST THIRTY NOW AND STILL SINGLE.

KUN
KUN
* T/N: A tedai is an employee who does limited jobs assigned by the master of the shop.
Since then...
I got a new life as "Kazuya"
and now work for the Kurokiya household as a tedai*
...BUT
MY FEELINGS FOR HER HAVE NEVER DIED...
EH...?!
I'M GOING TO PURCHASE TEXTURES IN NISHIKI TOWN...?!
I NEVER EXPECTED
TO RETURN TO THE PLACE WHERE "SEIICHI" SLEEPS...
YEAH MIND IF I ASK YOU TO? IT'S QUITE FAR
ARE THERE ANY PROBLEMS?
NO...



* T/N: A notebook where they register the names of the dead

...I have to be reborn...

SEIICHI?
SNOLK
IF IT ISN'T YOU, SEIICHI!

Sneak...

PAT
PAT
UH-OH, I'M SORRY YOU'RE KAZUYA NOW!
YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL.
THANKS TO YOU..

I CAME TO THIS TOWN FOR SOME BUSINESS
I'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS I'M FINISHED. .
WAIT

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MR. MONK...

SFX: HUFF HUFF

"SEIICHI'S TOMB"
Huff
Huff
"SEE YOUR
"GO AND SEE FOR YOUR SELF
"MIYA-SAMA,"
Seiichi's Tomb
Miya

THUD
"SHE TURNED DOWN THE LORD'S OFFER."
AAHH...!
"HER FAMILY MEMBERS WERE FURIOUS AND TORTURED HER SEVERELY FOR IT."
"IT'S SEEMS THAT SHE'S SAID THERE WAS SOMEONE SHE'S BEEN IN LOVE WITH FOR AGES."
SFX: G-SP
...SEIICHI?
WHAT DID SHE DO AFTER THAT...?
...HOW DARE YOU...!
"DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA"

SEIICHI...
YOU'RE ALIVE...!
W-WHY...?
Seiichi's Tomb
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUMP INTO THE HAPPINESS BEFORE YOU..?
HOW COME?!
B-
BE-CAUSE

I WANTED TO SAVE THE TOMB...
WE... COULDN'T EXPRESS OUR FEELINGS RIGHT TILL THE END.
I FELT LIKE OUR FEELINGS TOWARD EACH OTHER WERE ALSO BURIED HERE.
...AND
MY MOTHER, TOO..
I BELIEVE SHE'S SUPPORTING ME NOW.
..I AM
UNWORTHY TO BE LOVED BY MIYA-SAMA...

...
SEI-ICHI...
REACH
BESIDES, I CAUSED YOU TO BECOME A NUN...
AND LEFT YOU BEHIND FOR SEVEN YEARS...!
LOOK... IF I CAN'T SHOW MYSELF TO YOU WITH THIS COMB,
I DON'T NEED HAIR..
AH,

MY DEAR
AKAI SHINNYO
《END》

AFTER-
WORD

AUTHOR'S NOTE

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I can finally release my fourth book, and now my heart is filled with deep emotion

Thank you everyone for reading Arare Ame's newest book.

I was struggling to create a story set in that era

Oh? Isn't this story only acceptable in the Meiji period? But the other era ?

Oh no, it's becoming like a textbook

Hmm... how to unsert the Meiji scenery

It's been about two years since I mentioned in my last book that I wanted to write about stories set in the Meiji period...

*T/N: The Black Ships were Western ships that came to Japan, which had an isolationist policy during the 16th century (Edo period), and demanded opening Japan to other countries. After the arrival of the Black Ships, a political revolution took place, and the Meiji period began.

I ended up settling into Edo period, again

—Even though I was motivated to write about the Meiji period,

I felt incapable of opening my chambers and could only come to see off the Black Ships*

That's where "Kimoni" came from

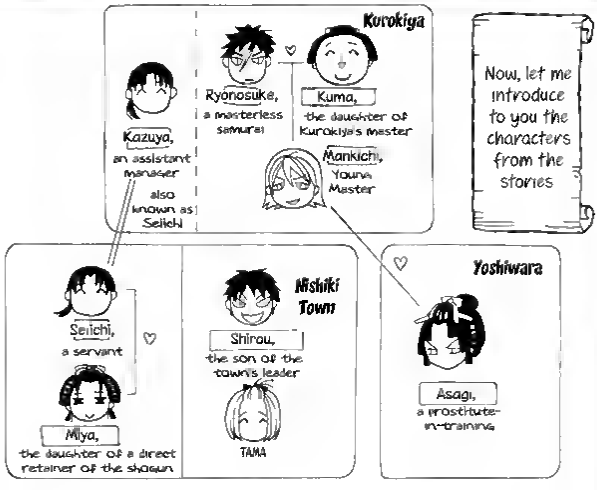
Ack?! Isn't this a story set in the Edo period?!

I'm really thankful to everyone from the editorial department and to my readers for supporting me.

But out of all of the books that I've published, "Edo Karuta" remains to be the one I was able to write with the most freedom

And so "Kanrobai" was created

Agh! It's another story set in the Edo...



AKAI SHINNYO

MAI GOI SHI

KAN RO BAI

KI MO RI

It took a very long time to decide on the main character of this work (Miya was supposed to be the heroine of this story) It's notable that I had a fierce discussion with my editor over Seiichi's character. Ryonosuke, Mankichi, Shirou and Tama all briefly appeared in the story seven years after Seiichi turned into Kazuya

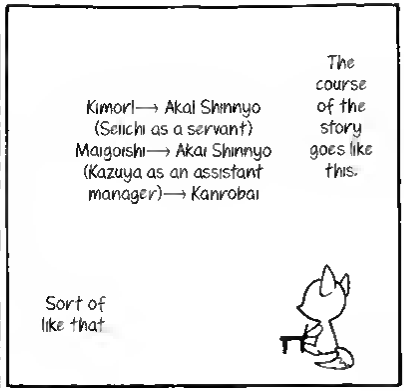
There aren't any appearances from the people of Kurokiya in this story. My sister gave birth to a baby while I was creating this story, so it was enjoyable to depict kids. For your information, the man and woman in the front and back cover of 'Edo Karuta' are grownup Tama and Shirou

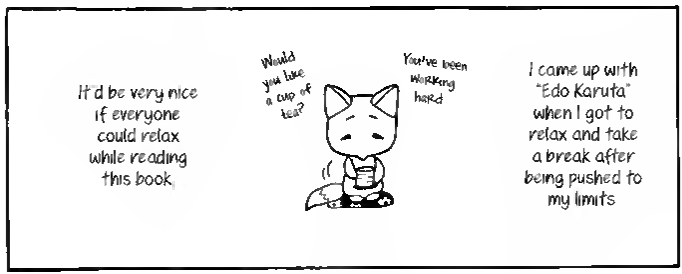
I've always wanted to create a character trapped in a pale ever since the Yoshiwara series. In this story, there are brief appearances by Kazuya, Ryonosuke, and Kuma (who gained back her weight)

I've been saving the word 'kimori' for later use in a tragic love story of an ochimusha*. However, since I kept creating sad stories, I came up with a cheerful one for a change

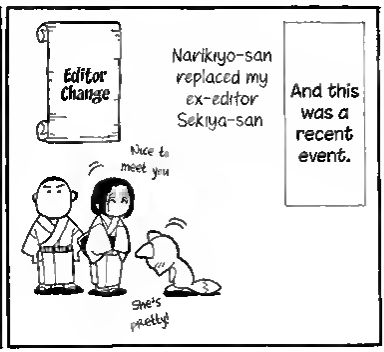
* T/N: Ochimusha is a defeated soldier or fugitive

Miya became a nun in the last half of the "Akai Shinnyo" story
However, Miya returns to secular life and marries Kazuya (who works for Kurokiya) in "Kanrobai"

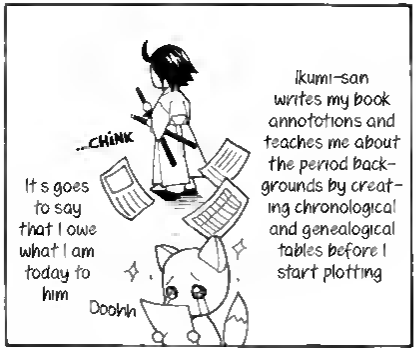

Kimori⟶ Akai Shinnyo (Seiichi as a servant) Maigoishi⟶ Akai Shinnyo (Kazuya as an assistant manager)⟶ Kanrobai
The course of the story goes like this.
Sort of like that.


It'd be very nice if everyone could relax while reading this book.
Would you like a cup of tea?
You've been working hard
I came up with "Edo Karuta" when I got to relax and take a break after being pushed to my limits

Sekiya-san taught me so many things, like showing a panel or creating a character
A great man who removed the curse that a person in my charge will surely transfer after one year.*
I will keep trying my best. Thank you for your support



* T/N. I think she wants to say that even though her ex-editor has been in charge of her for more than a year, he didn't get transferred to another division.



Ikumi-san writes my book annotations and teaches me about the period backgrounds by creating chronological and genealogical tables before I start plotting

And a person who I always cause a great deal of trouble for

And even if I thoroughly dug into Karuta itself, it's merely a method of expression, not a theme, so it wouldn't be suitable

Words like "Kimori" were already explained with the illustration of Karuta on each title page

Come to think of it, there wasn't anything that needed an explanation

Like always, I asked him to make annotations for this book, too.

Special Thanks

Sekiya-sama
Narikiyo-sama
Ikumi-sama
Gouten-sama
Nishio-san
Kagattchi
Rickey
Nobutoki-san
My family

And to my readers who always give me letters of encouragement (I've got messy handwriting, but I'll surely send you a reply!)

And you! Thank you for reading my manga! You just made my month!

However, Ikumi-san granted my request this time as well and created them using his ingenuity

This is the happiest thing ever for a manga artist.

I am able to issue my book thanks to many people's support.

The crazy rabbits!
Evil Flowers' staff!
We need Japanese Translators for all these projects!!!
Sensei to Nasho
Rakuen Route
Honey Bitter
Toki Moka
Bandage no Maihou no Shita
Mangetsu no Yoru ni Akuma no Kiss
Short Sunzen
Clover
Gal Kadou
ry Dynamite
Come and join us
If you don't want us
to send the crazy
rabbits after you!!
VISIT US AT: WWW.EVILFLOWERS.COM

I WANT MY MANGA NOW——
BAM!
Waaaa

If you enjoyed this title please support the mangaka and buy this manga!
Evil Flowers